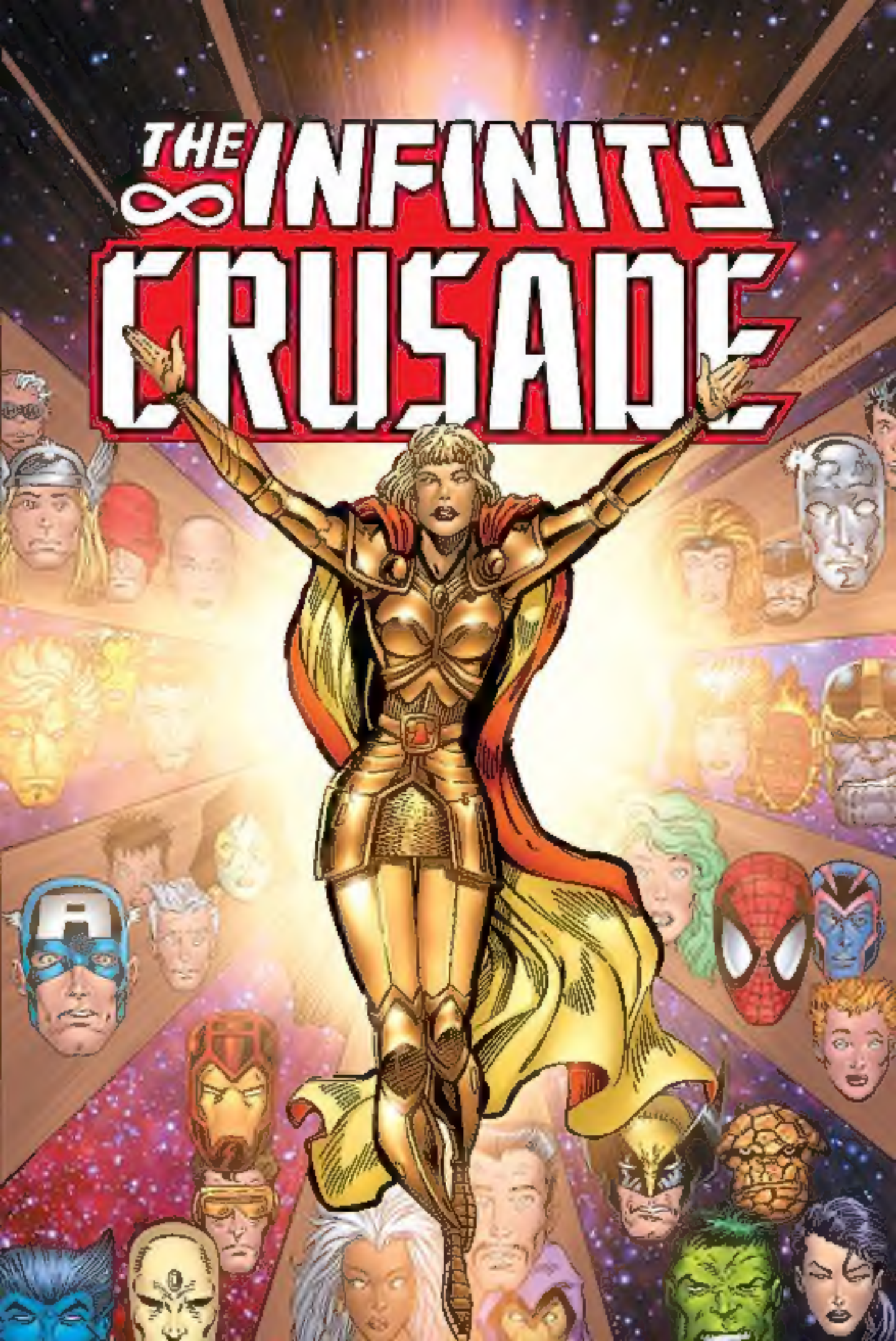
THE INFINITY CRUSADE

The Infinity Crusade Omnibus
Compiled by Justin Brown justnice980@gmail.com 12/16/14

Infinity Crusade #1
Iron Man #294
Iron Man #295
Warlock and the Infinity Watch #18
Doctor Strange: Sorcerer Supreme #54
Alpha Flight #122
Marc Spector: Moon Knight #56
Terror Inc #13
Thor #463
Avengers West Coast #96
Thor #464
Warlock Chronicles #1
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Thor #465
#Alpha Flight #123
#Alpha Flight #124
Darkhawk #30
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Warlock and the Infinity Watch #22
Infinity Crusade #6
Deathlok #29
Thor #467

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THE INFINITY CRUSADE

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

AVENGERS® ASSEMBLE!
A 30TH™
30 YEARS
1963-1993

THERE LIVES MORE FAITH IN HONEST DOUBT, BELIEVE ME, THAN IN HALF THE CREEDS. ~ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON.

"ADAM WARLOCK, ONCE SUPREME BEING OF HIS UNIVERSE, NOW REDUCED TO MERE GUARDIAN OF THE SOUL GEM AND LEADER OF THE INFINITY WATCH.

"THE DEPTHS IN WHICH HE IS BROODING ARE APPARENT EVEN FROM THIS VANTAGE.

"HE SENSES MY COMING.

"SOME ESOTERIC ELEMENT WITHIN FEELS THE METAMORPHOSIS ON THE HORIZON.

"HOW CAN HE NOT BE AWARE OF THE APPROACHING AWAKENING? FOR HE IS TRULY AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THIS...

Epiphany

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"FEAR MUST PLAY ALONG HIS HEART STRINGS."

GAMORA, TELEMETRY SHOWS MAXAM'S STRENGTH LEVELS TO BE NEARLY EQUAL TO DRAX'S NON-ADRENELINED PEAK!

THAT PUTS HIM IN A CLASS WITH THE HULK, MOON-DRAGON!

ALL THAT POWER AND SUPPOSEDLY NO MEMORY OF HOW HE CAME BY IT!

I TELL YOU, LADIES, MAX'S WHOLE AMNESIA TRIP'S A CROCK OF BULL!

SURE...WISH ...IT WERE... PIP.

THIS TEST ABOUT OVER?

"LITTLE INTEREST HAS POOR ADAM IN HIS FELLOW ADVENTURERS' EXPERIMENTS.

"DOES HE REALIZE HIS DARK WAYS ARE ABOUT TO COME TO AN END?

"JUDGMENT DAY IS UPON YOU, SINNER--!

"REPENT."

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PENCILER RON LIM
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COLORIST IAN LAUGHLIN
LETTERER JACK MORELLI
EDITOR CRAIG ANDERSON
CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

"BUT THAT IS NOT YOUR WAY, IS IT, WARLOCK?

"FACED WITH OVER-WHELMING PERIL, YOUR HABIT IS TO SEEK RESOLUTION RATHER THAN SALVATION.

"EVEN NOW YOU FORMULATE PLANS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE DANGER YOUR COSMIC SENSES BARELY EVEN PERCEIVE.

"YOUR FIRST STEP, NATURALLY, IS TO CONSULT ONE WHO KNOWS ALL AND MISSES NOTHING.

"A VAIN EFFORT.

"A TRUTH YOU'LL SOON COME TO LEARN.

"BUT REACHING THIS ADVISOR PRESENTS A PROBLEM IN ITSELF, DOESN'T IT?

"YOUR WOULD-BE BENEFACTOR IS BOTH AS DISTANT AS THE FARTHEST STAR AND AS NEAR AS YOUR OWN SKIN.

"BUT THE MYSTICAL ORB HE PRESENTED YOU MAY REMEDY THIS SITUATION.

"YOU'VE SO FAR HESITATED USING IT IN SUCH A MANNER, BUT NOW..."

HUH.

"CONCENTRATION.

"TRANSITION.

"OBLIVION.

"NOTHINGNESS.

"THE VOID.

"HOW PEACEFUL IT IS.

"NO PROBLEMS OR WORRIES HERE.

"THE TEMPTATION IS FOR YOU TO JUST REMAIN HERE FOREVER.

"THE SEDUCTIVE CALL OF SILENT AND ENDLESS CONTEMPLATION.

"ONLY AN OVERLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWS YOU TO RESIST THE SIREN LURE."

GREETINGS, ADAM WARLOCK!

I SEE THAT YOU HAVE AT LAST DETERMINED ONE OF THE USES OF THE ETERNAL ORB.

INTERESTING NAME.

BE WARNED THAT THIS GIFT IS ONLY TO BE USED AS A COMMUNICATION MEANS WITH MY PRESENCE IN THE MOST DIRE OF SITUATIONS.

WHICH IS WHY I HELD OFF TESTING UNTIL NOW, ETERNITY.

I SENSE SOMETHING AMISS IN THE UNIVERSE.

I TOO HAVE FELT A COSMIC CHANGE NEARING; EXAMINED THIS CURIOSITY AND DETERMINED IT HOLDS NO SIGNIFICANCE TO MY EXISTENCE.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND?

YOU MEAN WHAT I SENSE IS OF NO CONSE-QUENCE?

NONE TO ME.

WHAT ABOUT TO MY LIFE?

THAT IS FOR YOU TO DE-CIDE.

YOU SEEM DISTRACTED, ETERNITY-

LET IT NOT DISTURB YOU. IT IS MY NATURAL STATE.

I AM FOREVER. ALL THAT EVER WAS, IS, OR WILL BE.

ENDLESS MOMENTS ARE ME AND MINE TO TEND.

EACH MICRO-SECOND HAS VARYING DEGREES OF IMPOR-TANCE AND ARE GRANTED APPROPRIATE ATTENTIVNESS.

MEANING THIS MEETING OBVIOUSLY IS NOT A HIGH PRIORITY.

AND ONE NO LONGER WORTH CONTINUING...

MYRIAD DUTIES BECKON. FARE-WELL.

WAIT!

I WANTED TO ASK YOU...

SUCH AN ABRUPT DEPARTURE. HOW RUDE.

BUT IT DOES ALLOW US THIS PRIVATE MOMENT.

YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE ME?

THERE IS SOMETHING TERRIBLY FAMILIAR ABOUT YOU.

YOU MAY CALL ME THE Goddess!

WHO?

THE GODDESS..?

A GRAND TITLE...

LIKE THE MAGUS...

YOU!

EXACTLY!

I AM ALL THAT IS IN OPPOSITION TO YOUR DARK SIDE--THE MAGUS!

THE GODDESS IS THE FLAME, SELF AWARE-NESS, AND FEMININE.

AND YOU ARE...

...NOW BUT A MEMORY.

MOMENTS LATER, BACK ON EARTH, AT THE WEST COAST AVENGERS' HQ.

RESERVE AVENGER LIVING LIGHTNING, TAKES A BREAK FROM HIS DAY FOR A LITTLE SUN AND RELAXATION...

BUT THIS RESPITE IS DESTINED TO GAIN HIM FAR MORE THAN WAS EXPECTED.

MADRE DI DIOS!

ABOVE A FOREST IN NORTHERN CANADA...

ABOVE THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY...

SOMEWHERE OVER NEW YORK CITY...

ATOP THE ROOF OF AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK...

ON THE GROUNDS OF A WEST-CHESTER ESTATE...

AND OUT THE WINDSHIELD OF AN AVENGERS QUINJET...

THIS CANNOT BE!

HUH?

GONE!

IF IT WAS EVER TRULY THERE.

A VISION?

IMAGINATION?

TOO MUCH WORK?

WHO IS TO SAY?

WITHIN A DARKENED ROOM MANY LIGHT YEARS AWAY...

A DARING TRANSGRESSION.

ONE ONLY A GODDESS WOULD DARE.

EEEEEEEEEE

NOW, PREPARE FOR DIVINE JUDGMENT AND...

WHO IS SO FOOLISH AS TO TRESPASS AGAINST ME?

ONE WHO HERALDS A TOMORROW WITH NO ROOM FOR VILE CREATURES SUCH AS YOURSELF--!

...ETERNAL DAMNATION!

AH

I GRANT YOU A MOMENT TO CONSIDER YOUR SINS.

"THERE IS NO DENYING HEAVENLY EDICT."

NO!

WHERE THERE IS HEAVEN THERE MUST SURELY BE HADES.

ALL REALMS HAVE THEIR RULERS.

BUT IN THIS DOMAIN THE CROWN CURRENTLY RESTS UNEASILY ON ITS DARK LORD'S HEAD...

UNBELIEVABLE.

YET THE FLAMES DARE NOT DECEIVE ME.

THERE BE DANGEROUS FORCES AT WORK IN THE NEIGHBORING REALITY.

'TIS A FRIGHTENING MOVEMENT THAT COULD BRING AN END TO EVEN THE PERDITION I HAVE CREATED.

THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO COME TO PASS.

BUT I ALONE CAN DO NAUGHT AGAINST SUCH A GRAVE MENACE.

LORD MEPHISTO IS IN NEED OF ALLIES.

"FOR THE PAST YEAR I HAVE BEEN GATHERING THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS FROM MYRIAD DIMENSIONS.

"EACH OF THEM HAS THE POWER TO GRANT ME NEARLY ANY WISH.

"BUT THEIR GRANDEUR PALES NEXT TO DIVINE CALLING.

"THE UNITS ARE BUT TOOLS TO BE USED TO REALIZE THE SUPREME ONE'S WILL.

"LET UNIVERSAL DESTINY TAKE FORM.

"MAY IT SCULPT MY BEING TO ITS NEEDS.

"ALLOW IT TO EXPLOIT ANY AVENUE.

"I BOW TO ITS OMNIPOTENT WILL.

"GAZE INTO THE HEAVENS, ALL YE FAITHFUL.

"OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE HOLY PLAN.

"GIVE WITNESS AND PAY HOMAGE TO YOUR REDEMPTRESS!"

IN THE DEPTHS OF A REALITY MANY LEVELS FROM OUR OWN...

THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE INFINITY CRUSADE.

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

"THE END OF THE WORK DAY BRINGS ITS USUAL CONGESTION AND FRUSTRATION TO THE MEAN STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY.

"AN UNLIKELY PLACE TO FIND ENLIGHTENMENT.

"MOST ONLY CRAVE THE SMALL COMFORT OF HOME AND AN ESCAPE FROM THE RAT RACE.

"BUT FOR A GOOD QUARTER OF THIS CROWD THERE WILL BE A SURPRISE BONUS IN TODAY'S PAYCHECK.

"A VEIL WILL BE LIFTED FROM THEIR EYES.

"THE SUN WILL COME FROM BEHIND DARK CLOUDS.

"AND THEY SHALL TRULY SEE."

ON A FARM IN IDAHO...

JAKE, YOU OKAY?

IN A VILLAGE IN CHINA...

<ARE YOU ILL, ZHANG?>

<NO.>

WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE KREMLIN...

<IN FACT, I COULD NOT POSSIBLY FEEL BETTER.>

AT A ROYAL DINNER IN SAUDI ARABI...

<IT IS JUST THAT SOMETHING MARVELOUS HAS OCCURRED TO ME.>

DEEP WITHIN A DIAMOND MINE IN SOUTH AFRICA...

WHO CARES? FINISH WITH THIS LOAD--!

YES, SIR.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS.

TO THE WORLD AT LARGE IT IS BUT ANOTHER MANSION IN AN EXCLUSIVE NEW YORK SUBURB.

BUT THOSE IN THE KNOW REFER TO THIS COMPOUND AS THE X-MEN'S HIDEAWAY.

PRESENT IN THE DANGER ROOM'S CONTROL CHAMBER ARE WOLVERINE AND STORM.

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU WANT ME TO COME UP WITH A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE GAME ROOM, ORORO.

WHO BETTER TO ASK, LOGAN, THAN OUR RESIDENT EXPERT IN MAYHEM.

BESIDES, I THINK...

BY... THE...

YES, I AM THE GODDESS. GREETINGS, WINDRIDER.

DO NOT BE ALARMED. I COME TO YOU WITH A LOVING HEART.

YES, HE'S COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF MY PRESENCE.

NOT EVEN YOUR COMRADE'S ULTRA-SHARP SENSES CAN DETECT ME.

"NO INFIDEL CAN BEHOLD ME."

MY BEAUTY AND GRANDEUR ARE STRICTLY FOR THE BELIEVER.

IF A PERSON CANNOT SEE THEY CANNOT SEE ME.

BUT WHY?

BECAUSE I AM NEEDED.

ORORO?

THE ENTIRE GALAXY HAS CALLED OUT FOR ME.

AND I HAVE ANSWERED THAT SUMMONS FOR I DO WORK FOR THE SUPREME ONE.

WHAT WORK?

I AM HERE TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN AND SUFFERING.

4 FREEDOMS PLAZA HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR...

SUE RICHARDS, I AM WELL AWARE OF JUST HOW DIFFICULT IT HAS BEEN FOR YOU.

YOU SUFFER NEEDLESSLY IN SILENCE.

I AM HERE FOR YOU.

FROM THE START YOUR GREAT POWERS HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEM STILL GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUFFERING.

YOUR STILL-BORN CHILD WAS TRULY THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL.

HOW UNJUST.

THE ONLY THING YOU'VE HAD TO SEE YOU THROUGH THESE TRYING TIMES IS YOUR LITTLE-SPOKEN-OF-FAITH.

YES... IT'S BEEN SO HARD...

BELIEVE ME, DAREDEVIL, I FEEL THE PAIN THE YEARS HAVE HEAPED ONTO YOUR SHOULDERS.

I SHARE IT.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE MANIFESTED MYSELF AT THIS TIME, NAMORITA.

I AM HERE TO RELIEVE THE ANGUISH OF AN UNFAIR EXISTENCE, SILHOUETTE.

MY AIM, GALLANT SPIDER-MAN, IS TO TEAR DOWN THE WALL SEPARATING THE HUMAN SPIRIT FROM CELESTIAL BLISS.

ONLY I, QUICKSILVER, CAN RESCUE HUMANITY AND MUTANTKIND FROM ETERNAL HELL'S FIRE.

TO DO THIS, I HAVE COME TO BEINGS, LIKE YOURSELF, DR. STRANGE, WHO ARE DEEPLY IN TOUCH WITH THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THEIR NATURE.

OTHERS, WONDER MAN, I HAVE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY HAVE TASTED DEATH AND SEE PAST THE CONFINING BOUNDARIES OF MERE MORTAL EXISTENCE.

YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA, I HAVE SELECTED BECAUSE OF YOUR DEPTH OF MORAL CHARACTER, YOUR HONESTY, AND BRAVERY.

PUCK, SHAMAN, TALISMAN, WIND-SHEAR, AND SASQUATCH, YOU ARE STRONG SOULS WHO WOULD SACRIFICE YOUR ALL FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD OF HUMANITY.

KNOW THAT YOU CAN BETTER SERVE THIS UNIVERSE, SILVER SURFER-- BY SERVING ME.

OPEN YOURSELF UP, THOR, AND FEEL THE GRANDEUR OF POTENTIAL UNIVERSAL NIRVANA WITHIN ME.

FOR I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT IS RIGHTEOUS, SERS!.

I AM THE WAY.

SURELY, SLEEPWALKER, YOUR KEEN MYSTIC SENSES MUST CONFIRM THE PURITY OF MY ESSENCE.

I ASK YOU, CRYSTAL, TO JOIN WITH ME IN A MOST HOLY CALLING, A DIVINE MOVEMENT.

WITH YOUR AID, HERCULES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE ALL EVIL FROM THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

FIRELORD, TOGETHER WE CAN GENERATE A STERILIZING FLAME TO SCOUR THIS UNIVERSE CLEAN.

BE ASSURED THAT I HAVE THE POWER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MIRACLE, MOONDRAGON. AND I DESIRE YOU TO BE MY CHIEF APOSTLE.

BUT BE WARNED, USAGENT, THAT THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL SEEK TO THWART THIS GRAND DESIGN.

YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT EVEN FRIENDS AND FAMILY, DUPLICATE MAN, MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

TRUST NO ONE, RAHNE.

SCARET WITCH, THEY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND THAT WE BRING ABOUT BENEVOLENT AND POSITIVE SPIRITUAL ADVANCES TO THIS ACTUALITY.

I PROMISE YOU, BLACK KNIGHT--A CRUSADE WHOSE END GOAL IS GALACTIC SALVATION.

I OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO TRULY FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND JUST, GAMORA.

LIVING LIGHTNING, THE FIRE THAT IS WITHIN ME CAN EXPEL THE DARK-NESS.

OUR FAITH CAN MOLD A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THIS REALM, MOON KNIGHT.

OUR BELIEF CAN CREATE WONDER-MENT.

"REACH OUT FOR THAT MIRACLE, MY CHILDREN.

"EMBRACE THE BEAUTY THAT IS RIGHTEOUS.

"PLEDGE YOUR-SELF TO THE GREATER GLORY OF THE HEAVENS.

"JOIN ME IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE, THE ULTIMATE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL!

"WILL YOU BE MY SOLDIERS OF LIGHT?

"WILL YOU FAITHFULLY SERVE ME?"

YES!

WHAT?!

A TRANS-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL OPENING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM!

YES.

SUE! GET AWAY FROM THAT!!

STEP FORTH AND BE COUNTED, MY CHOSEN ONE.

WHAT THE DEVIL?

TOO LATE!

WHERE'D THAT DOORWAY GO?!

GONE!

GREEN LADY GO THROUGH DOOR AND DISAPPEAR?

THROUGH A PORTAL THAT VANISHED ALONG WITH HER.

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE COULD DO THAT!

SHE CAN'T!

WORSE YET, SHE LOOKED HYPNOTIZED OR SOMETHIN'!

THEN I TAKE IT THIS IS A RATHER UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE, EVEN FOR YOU FOLKS?

DRAX DON'T REMEMBER IT EVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

AND IT'S WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

TIME TO CALL IN THE MASTERS OF THE MACABRE!

ADAM! MOON-DRAGON!

WE GOT US SOME BIG TROUBLE!!

MOONDRAGON, YOU'RE... NOT HERE!

YOU DON'T FIGURE...

NAW!

DON'T EVEN THINK IT.

ADAM!

GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR ON THE DOUBLE!

THERE'S AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS SITUATION COMING DOWN, AND--

TERRIFIC!

HE'S GONE, TOO.

AND HE TOOK THE ROOM WITH HIM.

WHAT THE DEUCE IS GOIN' ON HERE?

HI, VISION. THIS IS JOHNNY STORM OVER AT 4 FREEDOMS PLAZA.

REED ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU A CALL AND ASK...

WELL, HE KIND OF WANTS TO KNOW...

I MEAN...

HAVE ANY OF THE AVENGERS SORT OF DISAPPEARED?

YES. SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS OF PARANORMAL POWER HAVE DEPARTED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

WE ARE CURRENTLY COMPILING A LIST OF THE MISSING.

I ASSUME THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR LOSS.

YES, MY SISTER, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN!

INTERESTING READINGS...

YOUR WIFE DISAPPEARS, AND THAT'S ALL YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK, STRETCH!

EMOTIONAL TURMOIL WILL GAIN US LITTLE IN THIS CURRENT SITUATION, BEN.

VISION, WE'LL BE STOPPING BY AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS I GATHER UP CERTAIN EQUIPTMENT.

EXCELLENT.

SEVERAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY HERE.

BUT, BEFORE YOU SIGN OFF, I HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK.

IS SUE RICHARDS A RELIGIOUS PERSON?

YEAH, IN A QUIET SORT OF WAY...

WHY?

IT CONCERNS A THEORY I AM IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING.

NOT ENOUGH DATA HAS BEEN GATHERED FOR ME TO VOICE IT THOUGH.

PERHAPS BY THE TIME YOU ARRIVE... UNTIL THEN...

WHAT DO YOU FIGURE THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?

NEVER CAN TELL WITH THE VISION.

HE'S A WEIRD ONE.

I MEAN WERE TALKIN' ABOUT A DUDE WHO GAVE UP HIS HUMANITY SO HE COULD BE PURE ANDROID!

A FEW CARDS SHORT OF A FULL DECK, YOU ASK ME.

REED RICHARDS, YOU ARE NEEDED!

HUH?

REED?

WHERE'D BEAN-POLE GET TO?

HE'S GONE!

VANISHED!

JUST LIKE SUE.

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN FROM THE EARTH...

"YES."

THIS WILL DO NICELY.

AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.

THAT'S THE TALLY SO FAR AS WE CAN FIGURE.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT EITHER EXCALIBUR OR X-FORCE.

AND YOU SAY THAT QUASAR IS OFF THE PLANET?

COMPLETELY OUT OF TOUCH.

WHAT ABOUT THE GROUP CALLED THE INFINITY WATCH?

WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTACT THEM.

WATCH IT, SHORTY.

NOW THAT THE APPROPRIATE FILES HAVE BEEN EXAMINED I BELIEVE I HAVE SUFFICIENT HARD DATA TO PUT FORTH THAT THEORY I MENTIONED EARLIER.

I FEEL CONFIDENT I KNOW WHY THESE PARTICULAR PARA-NORMALS WERE ABDUCTED.

THEY WERE KIDNAPPED?

WELL?

ALL THE MISSING SHARE A COMMON TRAIT OR EXPERIENCE.

WHICH IS?

AN EVENT OR ATTITUDE THAT MIGHT BE CATEGORIZED AS RELIGIOUS.

MANY AMONG THE MISSING HOLD DEEPLY FELT MORAL STANDS OR INTENSE SPIRITUAL BELIEF SYSTEMS.

THOSE WHO DONOT FIT THAT PRO-FILE HAVE ALL HAD AFTER-DEATH EXPERIENCES.

SO HAVE YOU.

BUT I MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS A SOUL-LESS BEING.

MY THEORY DOES NOT HOLD THAT THESE ATTITUDES AIDED IN THE MISSING INDIVIDUAL'S ABDUCTION, ONLY THAT THESE TRAITS MAY HAVE DETERMINED WHO WOULD BE TAKEN.

I DON'T GET IT...

HEY I BELIEVE THERE'S A GOD!

WHY DIDN'T I GET SNATCHED ALONG WITH THE OTHERS?

OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE YOUR BELIEF IN A SUPREME BEING IS NOT AS DEEPLY FELT NOR WELL KNOWN AS THE OTHERS.

IN OTHER WORDS THE BEST AMONG US HAVE BEEN GRABBED?

EXACTLY.

YOU CAN ADD REED TO THE LIST OF M.I.A.'S.

HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

PROF. RICHARDS DOES NOT AT ALL FIT THE PROFILE.

HE IS TOO MUCH THE HARD BOILED PRAGMA-TIST.

WELL, IT DOES SORT OF LOOK LIKE HE MAY HAVE BEEN BAGGED BY SOMEONE DIFFERENT.

JUST AS I SUS-PECTED.

STILL, HIS DISAPPEAR-ANCE COMPLICATES AN ALREADY PERILOUS SITUATION.

TRANS-DIMENSIONAL FORCES APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED AND RICHARDS IS OUR MOST KNOWLEDGE-ABLE EXPERT IN THAT FIELD.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MUDDLE THROUGH WITHOUT HIM.

PERHAPS IF WE REVIEW THE FILE HE GAVE THE AVENGERS ON...

TALK ABOUT NOT SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES.

HASN'T IT OCCURRED TO ANY OF YOU GENIUSES THAT WE HAD OUR-SELVES A RASH OF DISAPPEARANCES A FEW MONTHS BACK?

DOESN'T ANYONE REMEMBER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM?

PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO BE CHECKING UP ON HIM.

WE'D BE GLAD TO, ONCE YOU TELL US HOW.

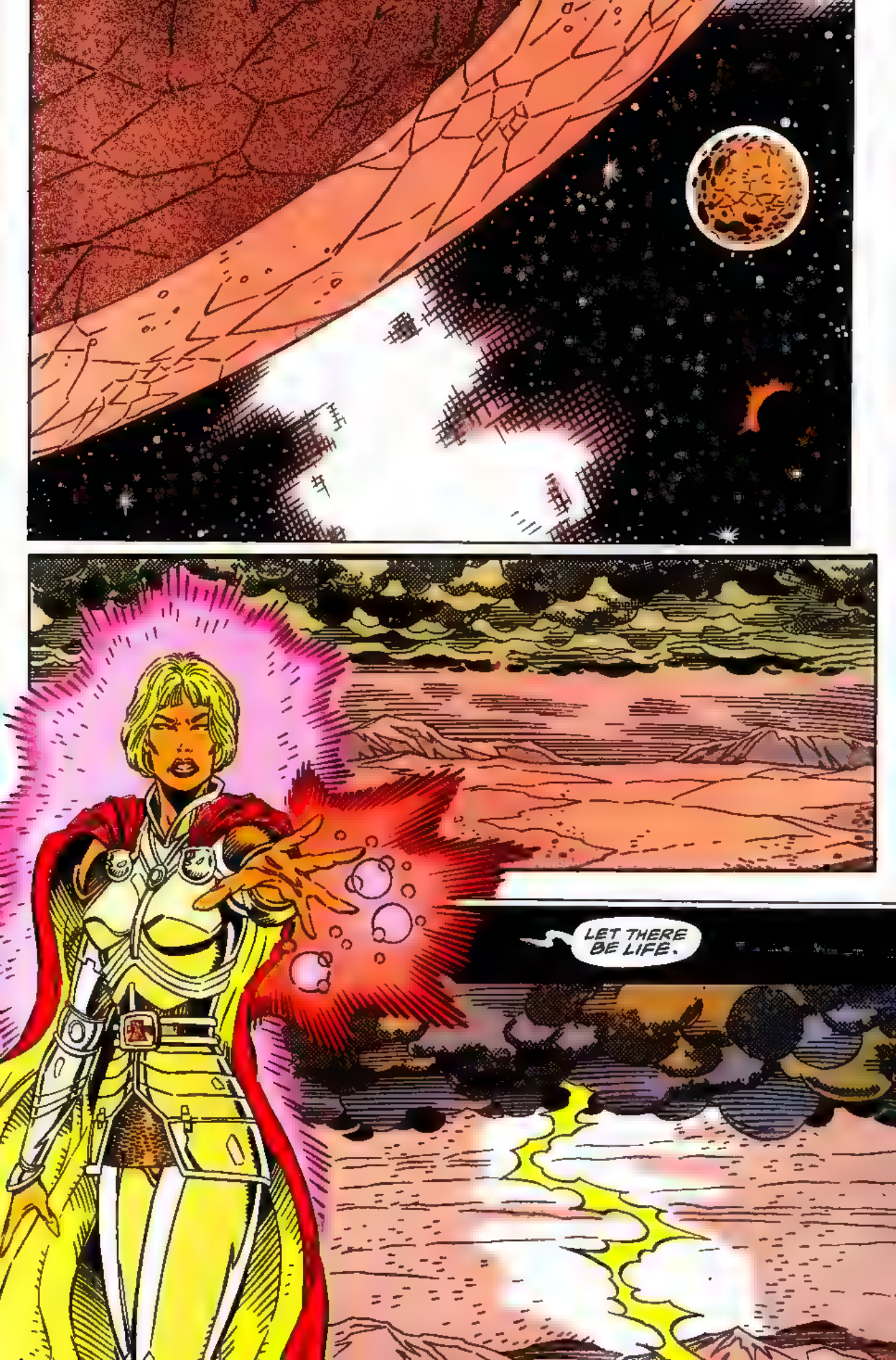
BESIDES, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THESE VANISHINGS DIFFER GREATLY FROM THOSE PAST ONES.

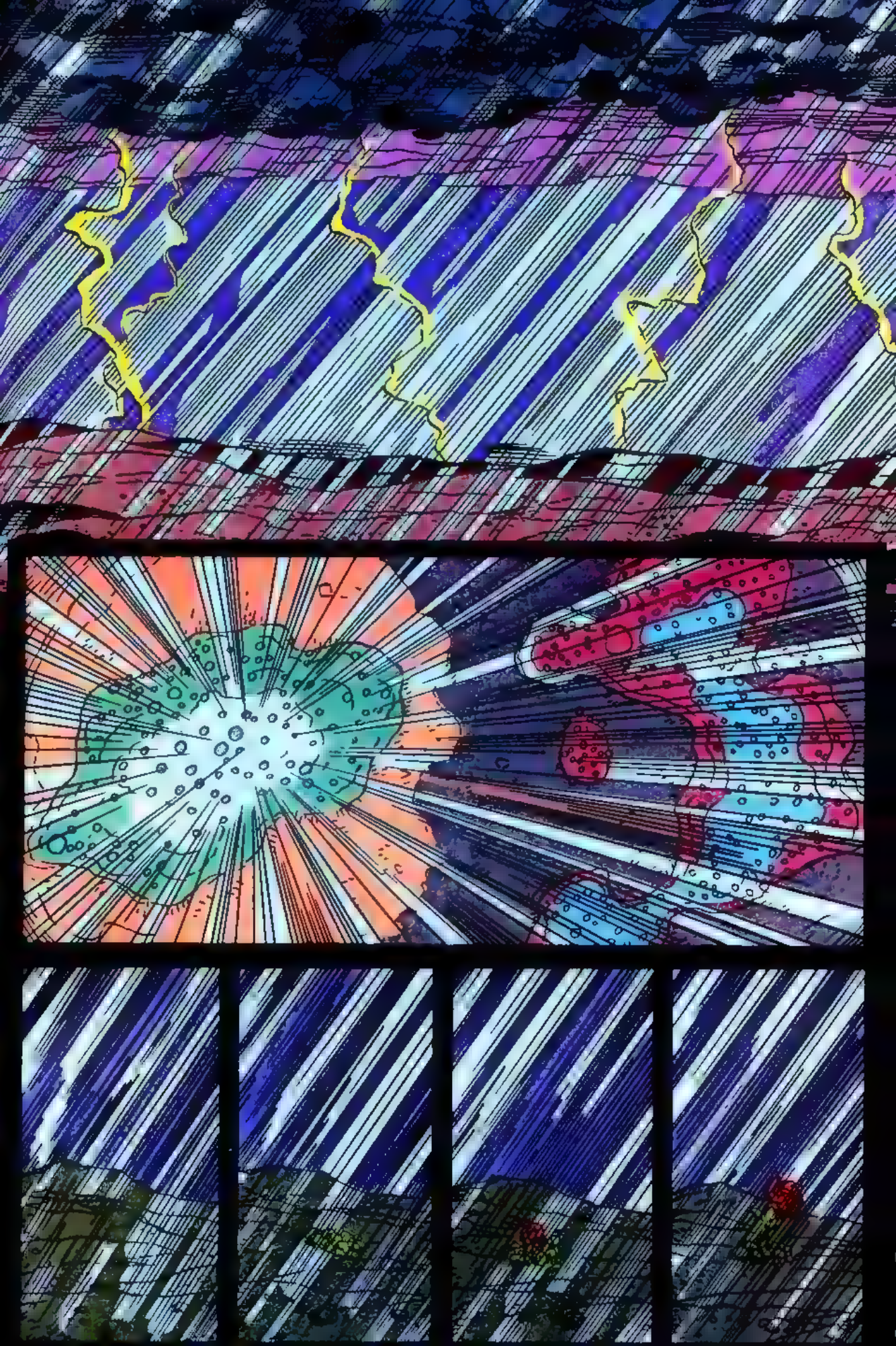
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT EVERYONE'S PRAYING OLD "PURPLE PUSS" ISN'T INVOLVED THIS GO-AROUND.

PRECISELY.

NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND SHOULD WANT TO CONFRONT THANOS AGAIN, IF IT CAN BE AVOIDED.

CREATION.


LET THERE BE LIFE.



"THE NEW PARADISE.

"CALL FORTH THE CONGREGATION."

WHERE ARE WE?

DON'T LOOK LIKE KANSAS TO ME, TOTO.

NOT EARTH, EITHER. LOOK AROUND.

NO SIGN OF ANIMAL LIFE ANYWHERE.

YOU FOLKS FEEL WHAT I'M FEEL-ING?

EARTHQUAKE! AT LEAST TREMORS.

LOOK OVER THERE!

"EVERY PARADISE SHOULD HAVE A CATHEDRAL."

THERE'S SOME-ONE BEHIND THOSE DOORS!

WELCOME MY CHILDREN TO --

PARADISE OMEGA!

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES #1 ON SALE NEXT WEEK! THEN FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE TWO WEEKS LATER WITHIN THE PAGES OF WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #18 AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK REJOIN US HERE IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE #2!

AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN AVENGERS WEST COAST #96, ALPHA FLIGHT #122, IRON MAN #294, THOR #464, DR. STRANGE #55 AND TERROR INC. #13!

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294
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IRON MAN
CAUGHT IN THE METAL-CRUSHING GRASP OF TECHNOVORE!
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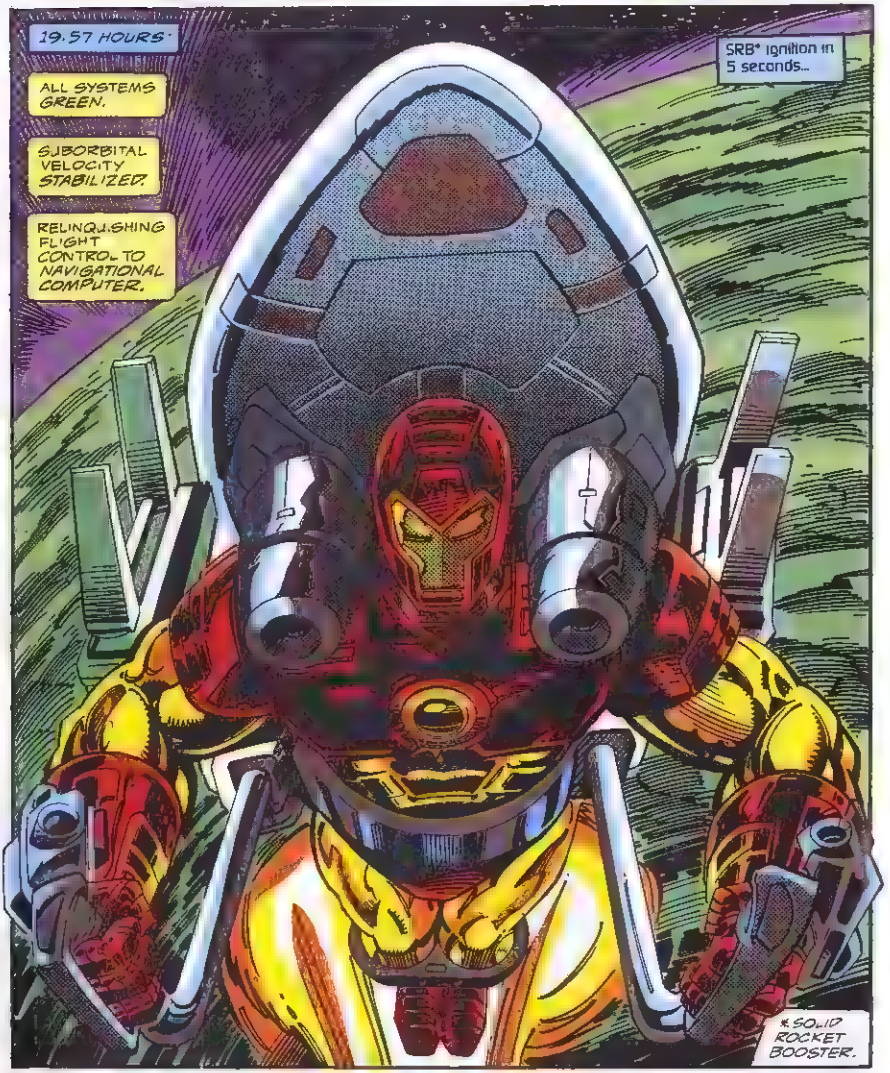
WHEN MULTI-BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST-INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE ANTHONY STARK INTERFACES WITH HIS REMOTE-CONTROLLED, STATE-OF-THE-ART TELEPRESENCE UNIT, HE TRANSCENDS THE LIMITATIONS OF HIS FRAIL PHYSICAL BODY AND BECOMES THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHTING MACHINE!

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™



IRON MAN® Vol. 1 No. 294, July 1993. (U.S.P.S. 426-730) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $15.00; Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032652. Foreign $27.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. IRON MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO IRON MAN, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.**

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LEO* achieved; atmosphere-to-orbit burn complete. Throttling down SRB.
ONE NICE THING ABOUT THIS TELE-PRESENCE UNIT: IT CAN TAKE 15 G'S WITHOUT TURNING TO JELLO.
* LOW EARTH ORBIT
SWELL. JUST ENOUGH TIME TO GET BORED.
Time until OMS* burn/boost to HEO** -- 15:09 minutes
* ORBITAL MANEUVERING SYSTEM.
** HIGH EARTH ORBIT.
I MUST BE WITH N RANGE OF HALF A DOZEN SATELLITE BROADCAST FEEDS. LET'S POWER UP THE ON-BOARD VIDEO--
- AND SEE WHAT'S ON CABLE.
A-ONE AND TWO AND THREE!
FEEL THE BURN, GIRLS
REMEMBER--
- NO PAIN, NO GAIN!
05:47 HOURS*
NNUUGHHH
THAT HURT?
NNGH YES AAOW
GOOD

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THAT MEANS I'M DOING IT RIGHT.
YOUR =NNAGH= BEDSIDE MANNER LEAVES A LOT TO BE =AAGGE= DESIRED, DOCTOR BENNING
YOU CAN DROP THE "DOCTOR", MR. STARK--
IT'S =NGHK= TONY
TONY, THEN. I'M A P.T.,* NOT AN M.D.
WWF IS MORE LIKE IT.
*PHYSICAL THERAPIST
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PATIENTS I'VE HAD WHO'D BE WILLING TO GO THROUGH A LOT WORSE THAN THIS--
YOU'RE REGAINING RESPONSIVENESS FASTER THAN ANYONE I'VE SEEN--
TO HAVE HALF YOUR CHANCES OF RECOVERING FROM PARALYSIS?
BUT IF WE DON'T GET YOUR MUSCLES LIMBERED UP, YOU'LL BE IN NO SHAPE TO START EXERCISING THEM
EXERCISE?! I CAN'T EVEN--
LESS TALK-- MORE WORK
=AAOUCH=
IT FIGURES.
I'VE BEEN OUT OF COMMISSION FOR SO LONG, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME A WOMAN TOUCHED ME.
AND NOW WHEN ONE FINALLY DOES--
--IT'S JUST SO THAT SHE CAN PUT ME THROUGH THE RINGER.
20:07 HOURS.
"WARNING RADIATION HAZARD" Solar flare wavefront approaching. Magnitude: 11.9
WHAT? IMPOSSIBLE!

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ADV MENT

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A FLARE OF THAT MAGNITUDE WOULD'VE BEEN DETECTED HOURS IN ADVANCE.
RUN A LEVEL ONE DIAGNOSTIC OF SENSOR SYSTEMS; CALIBRATION HAS TO BE OFF.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT--BUT IT'S FOR REAL.
NO TIME FOR EVASIVE ACTION.
SHIELDS UP, MAXIMUM POWER!
Diagnostic Results: No system errors
Shield Integrity. 87% and dropping...
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HOLD.
HAVE TO BREAK UPLINK WITH THE IRON MAN REMOTE BEFORE--
UHHH.
WHERE...?

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NEW!

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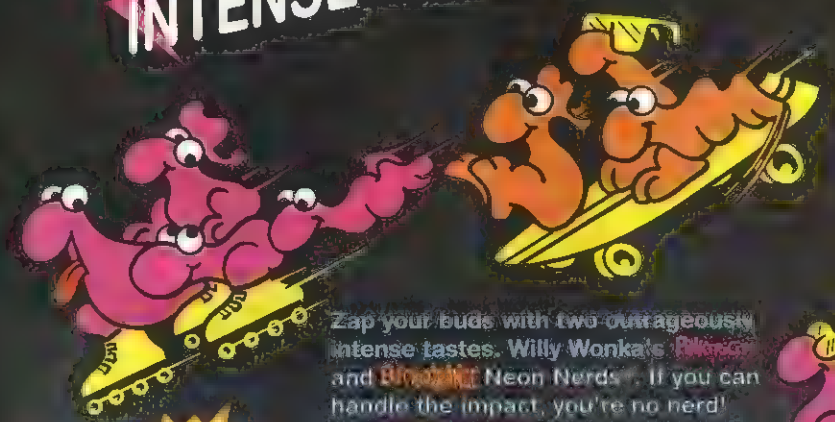
INTENSE-TASTING CANDY



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NAME

STREET ADDRESS

STATE ZIP

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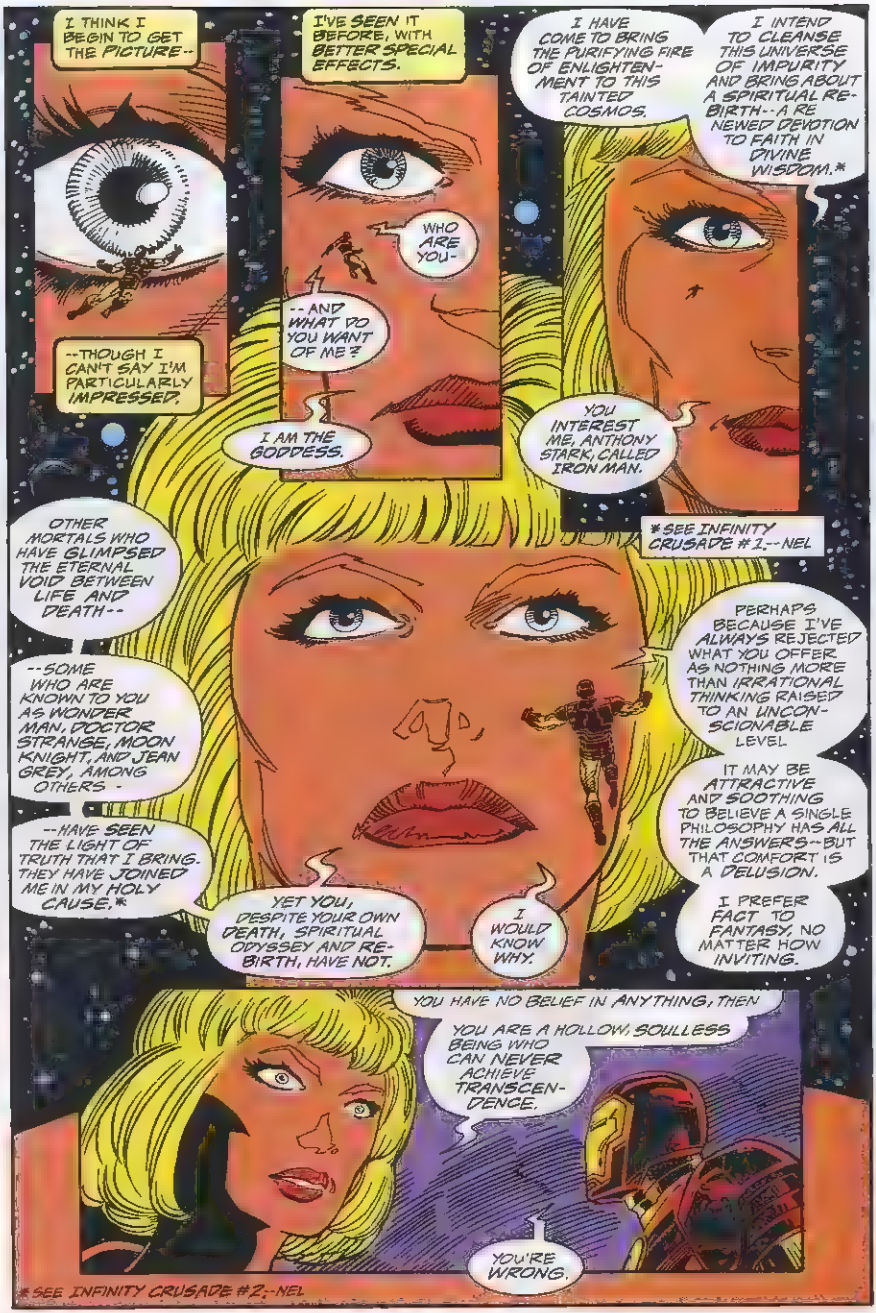
I THINK I BEGIN TO GET THE PICTURE--
--THOUGH I CAN'T SAY I'M PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED.
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE, WITH BETTER SPECIAL EFFECTS.
WHO ARE YOU-
--AND WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
I AM THE GODDESS.
I HAVE COME TO BRING THE PURIFYING FIRE OF ENLIGHTENMENT TO THIS TAINTED COSMOS.
I INTEND TO CLEANSE THIS UNIVERSE OF IMPURITY AND BRING ABOUT A SPIRITUAL REBIRTH--A RENEWED DEVOTION TO FAITH IN DIVINE WISDOM.*
YOU INTEREST ME, ANTHONY STARK; CALLED IRON MAN.
*SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #1.--NEL
OTHER MORTALS WHO HAVE GLIMPSED THE ETERNAL VOID BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH--
--SOME WHO ARE KNOWN TO YOU AS WONDER MAN, DOCTOR STRANGE, MOON KNIGHT, AND JEAN GREY, AMONG OTHERS -
--HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH THAT I BRING. THEY HAVE JOINED ME IN MY HOLY CAUSE.*
YET YOU, DESPITE YOUR OWN DEATH, SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY AND REBIRTH, HAVE NOT.
I WOULD KNOW WHY.
PERHAPS BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS REJECTED WHAT YOU OFFER AS NOTHING MORE THAN IRRATIONAL THINKING RAISED TO AN UNCONSCIONABLE LEVEL.
IT MAY BE ATTRACTIVE AND SOOTHING TO BELIEVE A SINGLE PHILOSOPHY HAS ALL THE ANSWERS--BUT THAT COMFORT IS A DELUSION.
I PREFER FACT TO FANTASY, NO MATTER HOW INVITING.
YOU HAVE NO BELIEF IN ANYTHING, THEN
YOU ARE A HOLLOW, SOULLESS BEING WHO CAN NEVER ACHIEVE TRANSCENDENCE.
YOU'RE WRONG.
*SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #2.--NEL

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I BELIEVE FORCE EQUALS MASS TIMES ACCELERATION--
--THAT ENERGY EQUALS MASS MULTIPLIED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED--
.. AND IN FERMAT'S LAST THEOREM AND GODEL'S PROOF, TO NAME A FEW
I BELIEVE THAT SCIENTIFIC METHOD IS HUMANITY'S MOST POWERFUL TOOL--
-- AND THAT THROUGH THE WILL TO KNOWLEDGE, MAN CAN ACHIEVE HIS OWN TRANSCENDENCE--
-- WITHOUT BOWING TO GODS WITH THE MANNERS OF SPOILED CHILDREN.
YOUR BODY MAY HAVE BEEN THAWED, BUT YOUR SOUL REMAINS IMPRISONED IN THE ICE OF RATIONALISM.
BUT YOU WILL LEARN.
YOU ARE ABOUT TO FACE A CREATION OF YOUR ABHORRENT SCIENCE WHICH WILL DESTROY YOUR FAITH IN IT--
--AND IN THAT MOMENT, YOU WILL BE MINE!
REALSPACE: 70°16 HOURS
AS IF THINGS WEREN'T ALREADY COMPLICATED ENOUGH..
I SMELL ANOTHER OF THOSE MASSIVE LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARES WHERE SEVERAL HUNDRED SUPERHUMANS CONVENE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO "SAVE ALL HUMANITY" COMING UP AGAIN.
AND AS USUAL, I'LL PROBABLY GET STUCK WITH THE CATERING BILL.
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.
NEXT STOP--

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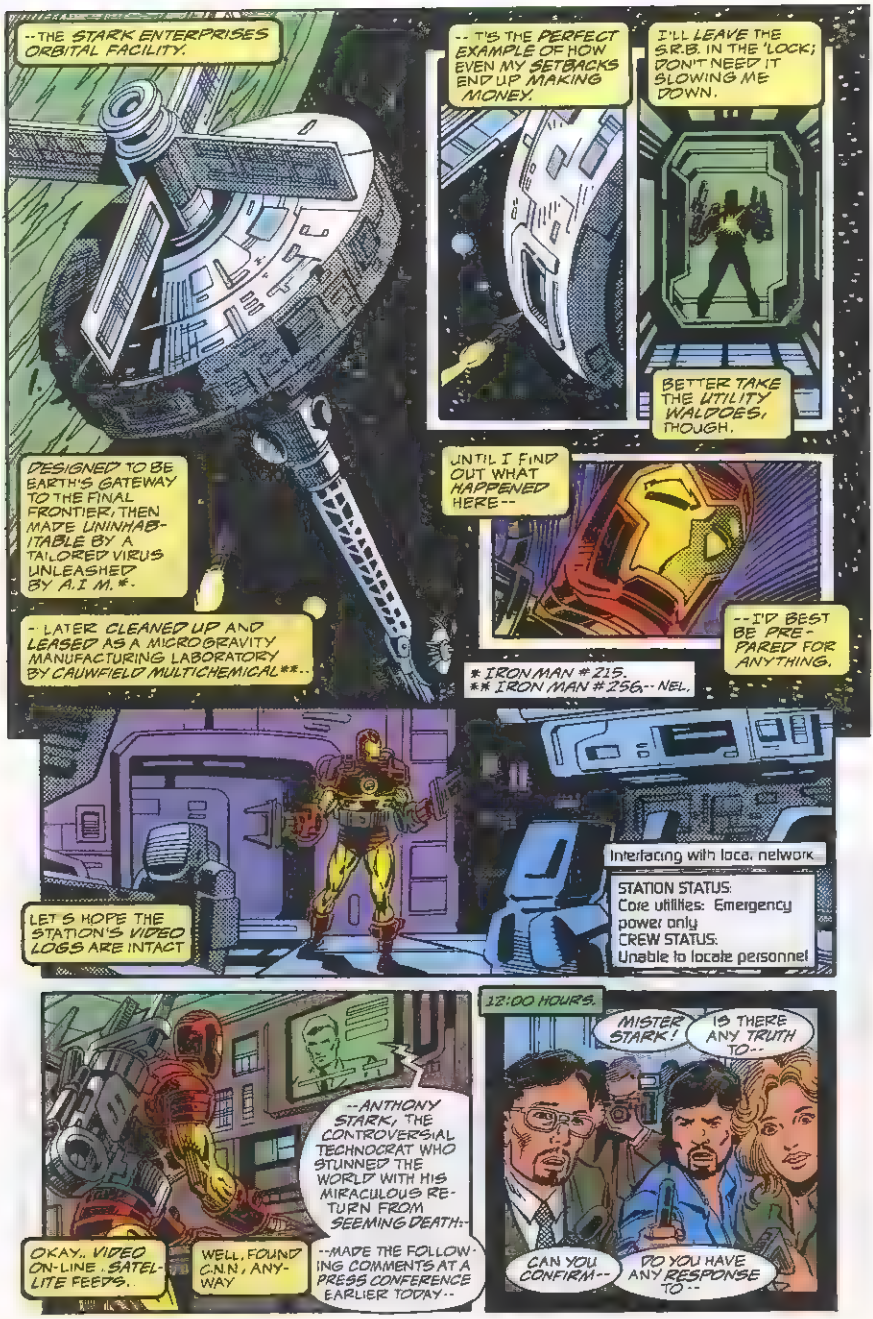
--THE STARK ENTERPRISES ORBITAL FACILITY.
DESIGNED TO BE EARTH'S GATEWAY TO THE FINAL FRONTIER, THEN MADE UNINHABITABLE BY A TAILORED VIRUS UNLEASHED BY A.I.M.*.
- LATER CLEANED UP AND LEASED AS A MICROGRAVITY MANUFACTURING LABORATORY BY CAUWFIELD MULTICHEMICAL**..
-- 'TIS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW EVEN MY SETBACKS END UP MAKING MONEY.
I'LL LEAVE THE S.R.B. IN THE 'LOCK; DON'T NEED IT SLOWING ME DOWN.
BETTER TAKE THE UTILITY WALDOES, THOUGH.
UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE--
--I'D BEST BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.
* IRON MAN #215.
** IRON MAN #256.-- NEL.
LET'S HOPE THE STATION'S VIDEO LOGS ARE INTACT
Interfacing with local network...
STATION STATUS:
Core utilities: Emergency power only
CREW STATUS:
Unable to locate personnel
OKAY.. VIDEO ON-LINE. SATELLITE FEEDS..
WELL, FOUND C.N.N, ANYWAY
--ANTHONY STARK, THE CONTROVERSIAL TECHNOCRAT WHO STUNNED THE WORLD WITH HIS MIRACULOUS RETURN FROM SEEMING DEATH--
--MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER TODAY--
12:00 HOURS.
MISTER STARK!
IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO--
CAN YOU CONFIRM--
DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO--

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ONE AT A TIME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE.
STARK
YOU'RE LOOKING QUITE FIT FOR A MAN RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM SUCH... UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.
TO WHAT DO YOU CREDIT YOUR REMARKABLY RAPID RECOVERY?
OAT BRAN
HA HA HA!
IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMOR THAT STARK ENTERPRISES PLANS TO OPEN A MASSIVE NEW CRYONICS FACILITY IN SOUTHERN--
SE. HAS NO PLANS TO GO INTO COMMERCIAL CRYONICS AT PRESENT.
CAN YOU EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY REPORTS THAT THE PROCESS WHICH CURED YOU OF YOUR DISORDER MAY REPRESENT A POTENTIAL CANCER TREATMENT?
THE PROCESS IN QUESTION WAS TAILORED FOR A SPECIFIC, UNIQUE CONDITION; SO FAR, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SUITED TO OTHER APPLICATIONS.
CAN YOU TELL US HOW IT FELT TO BE DEAD?
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I'D RATHER HAVE BEEN IN PHILADELPHIA.
DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REVEREND HARRIS WILSON'S CHARACTERIZATION OF YOURSELF AND STARK ENTERPRISES AS, QUOTE, "CLOVEN-HOOVED AGENTS OF--
NO. NO COMMENT.
NEXT?
AFTERWARD...
WELL, THAT WASN'T SO BAD.
FEL X, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST ESCAPED FROM A PACK OF RABID JACKALS.
WELL, YOU CAN HARDLY BLAME THEM; THERE HASN'T BEEN A STORY LIKE THIS SINCE 33 A.D.
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT MY... SITUATION...
...WOULD HAVE SO MUCH... IMPACT.
REALLY?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, TONY, YOU'RE A MASTER AT HANDLING PEOPLE--
--BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM AT ALL.

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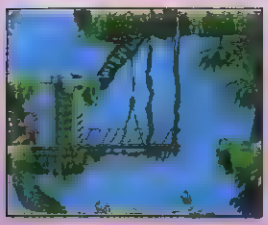
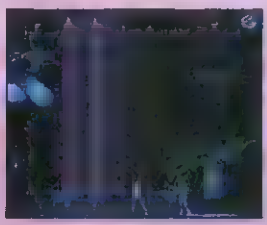
The First CD-ROM Game in a Cartridge!

FLASHBACK
THE QUEST FOR IDENTITY™

12 MEG



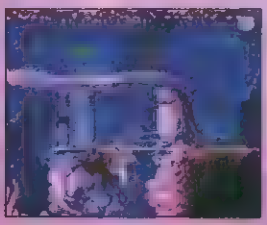
Planet Titan: *It's a jungle out there. Filled with mutants, antimatter fields and other weird stuff.*



Death Tower: *In a futuristic gladiator battle, it's a fight to the finish against replicants.*

Paradise Club: *You sniff out the aliens' bizarro plans but now they're on to you dude.*

Earth: *Oops! Your identity is uncovered. Now robot cops want to pulverize you.*



Planet Morphs: *Surprise! You show up at the aliens' HQ. They don't look happy.*

Available for Sega™ Genesis™

Flashback – the first game ever to pump awesome high-octane CD ROM performance from a cartridge. The action screams along at 24 frames-per-second. Just like movie animation. And after each level, the game moves along with animated sequences that are straight out of Hollywood. Excellent!

The Plot? You play the part of Conrad Hart, a GBI agent in training. You stumble on a bizarre alien plot to conquer the earth. Now you've got to outwit and combat droves of replicants, deadly aliens, traps and other stuff too weird for words. No problem for a pro like you...NOT!

Still not convinced? Then check it out at your local game habitat. Flashback – it's like putting your Genesis into warp drive.

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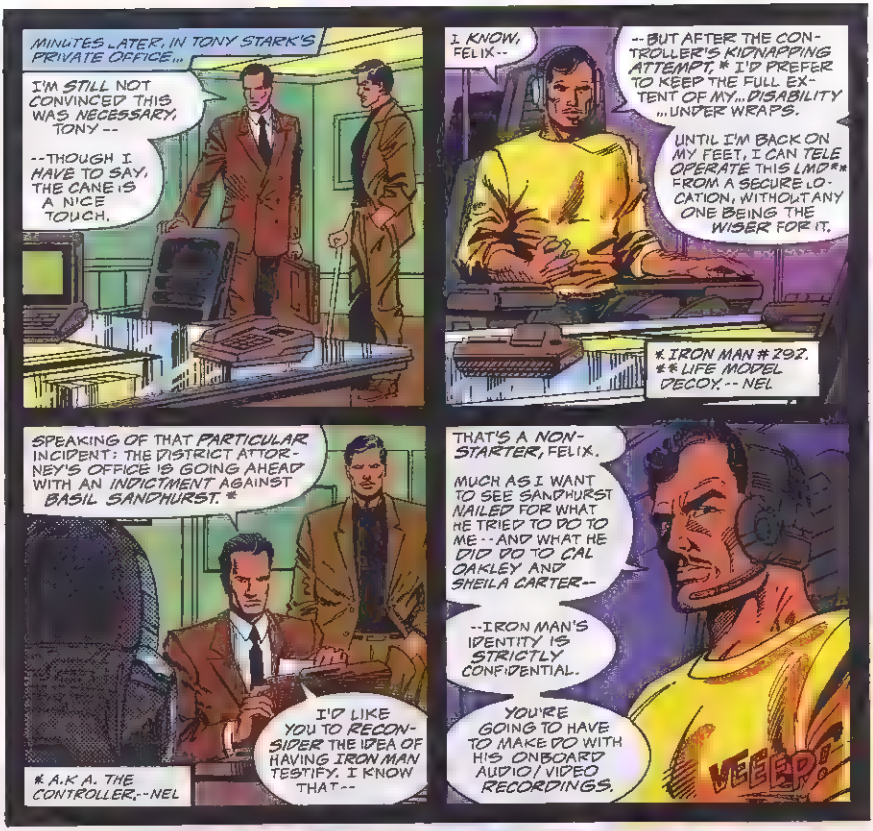
MINUTES LATER, IN TONY STARK'S PRIVATE OFFICE...
I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THIS WAS NECESSARY, TONY --
--THOUGH I HAVE TO SAY, THE CANE IS A NICE TOUCH.
I KNOW, FELIX--
--BUT AFTER THE CONTROLLER'S KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT, * I'D PREFER TO KEEP THE FULL EXTENT OF MY... DISABILITY ...UNDER WRAPS.
UNTIL I'M BACK ON MY FEET, I CAN TELE OPERATE THIS LMD** FROM A SECURE LOCATION, WITHOUT ANY ONE BEING THE WISER FOR IT.
* IRON MAN # 292.
** LIFE MODEL DECOY. -- NEL
SPEAKING OF THAT PARTICULAR INCIDENT: THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS GOING AHEAD WITH AN INDICTMENT AGAINST BASIL SANDHURST. *
I'D LIKE YOU TO RECONSIDER THE IDEA OF HAVING IRON MAN TESTIFY. I KNOW THAT--
* A.K.A. THE CONTROLLER.--NEL
THAT'S A NON-STARTER, FELIX.
MUCH AS I WANT TO SEE SANDHURST NAILED FOR WHAT HE TRIED TO DO TO ME -- AND WHAT HE DID DO TO CAL OAKLEY AND SHEILA CARTER--
--IRON MAN'S IDENTITY IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH HIS ONBOARD AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS.
BEEEP!
YES?
AH, HERE WE GO.
APRIL 21, 08:22 HOURS; PROJECT SUPERVISOR LLOYD PETERSON REPORTING.
AS OF 3:22 HOURS, WE LOST CONTROL OVER THE EXPERIMENT IN LAB 3. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PROVED... INADEQUATE.
REHNQUIST AND SCALIA ARE DEAD.
ABE ZIMMER HERE, TONY
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.
20.37 HOURS.

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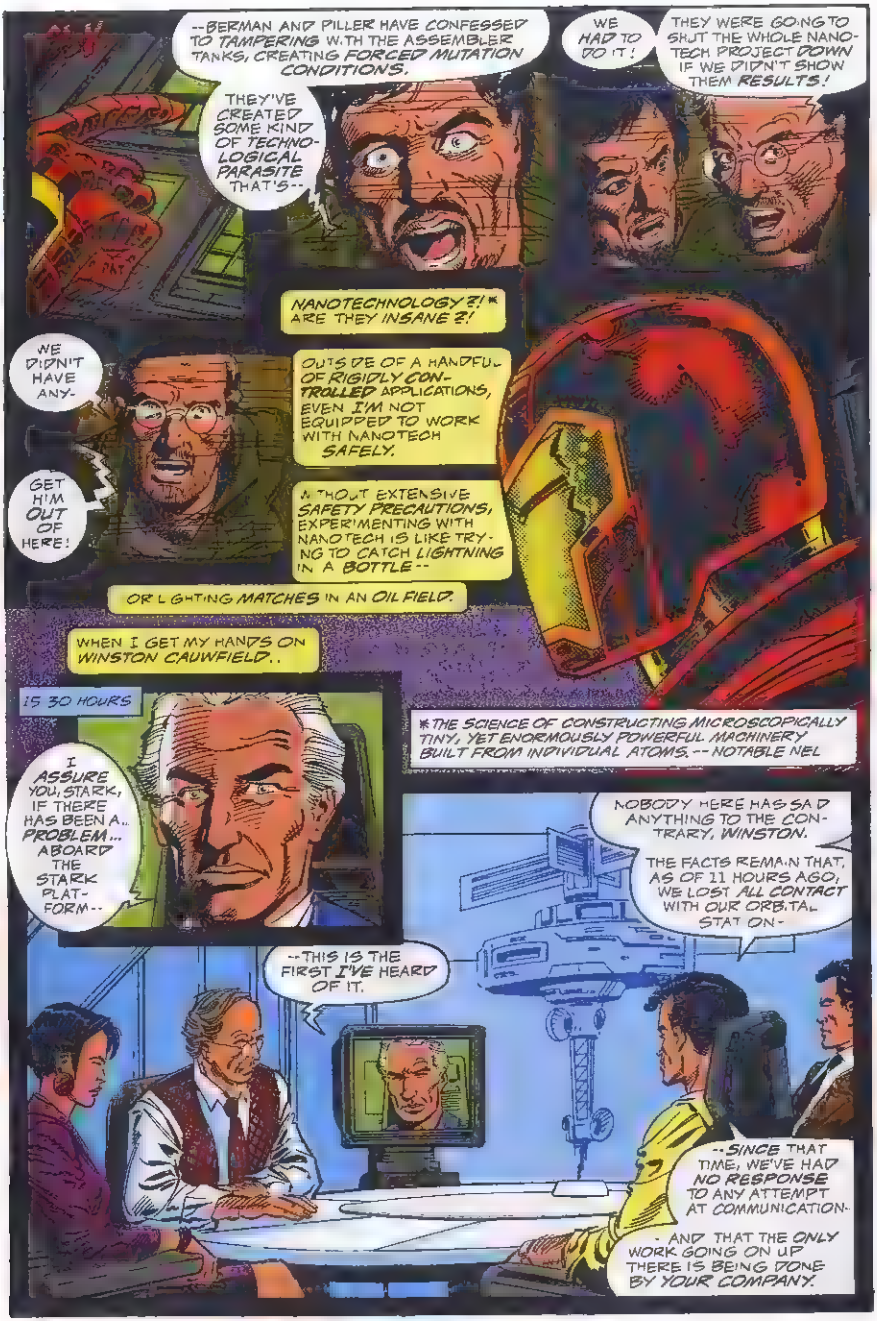
--BERMAN AND PILLER HAVE CONFESSED TO TAMPERING WITH THE ASSEMBLER TANKS, CREATING FORCED MUTATION CONDITIONS.
THEY'VE CREATED SOME KIND OF TECHNO-LOGICAL PARASITE THAT'S--
WE HAD TO DO IT!
THEY WERE GOING TO SHUT THE WHOLE NANO-TECH PROJECT DOWN IF WE DIDN'T SHOW THEM RESULTS!
NANOTECHNOLOGY?! * ARE THEY INSANE?!
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY-
OUTSIDE OF A HANDFUL OF RIGIDLY CON-TROLLED APPLICATIONS, EVEN I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO WORK WITH NANOTECH SAFELY.
GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
WITHOUT EXTENSIVE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, EXPERIMENTING WITH NANOTECH IS LIKE TRY-ING TO CATCH LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE--
OR LIGHTING MATCHES IN AN OIL FIELD.
WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON WINSTON CAUWFIELD..
* THE SCIENCE OF CONSTRUCTING MICROSCOPICALLY TINY, YET ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL MACHINERY BUILT FROM INDIVIDUAL ATOMS. -- NOTABLE NEL
15 30 HOURS
I ASSURE YOU, STARK, IF THERE HAS BEEN A.. PROBLEM... ABOARD THE STARK PLAT-FORM--
NOBODY HERE HAS SAID ANYTHING TO THE CON-TRARY, WINSTON.
THE FACTS REMAIN THAT, AS OF 11 HOURS AGO, WE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH OUR ORBITAL STATION-
--THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
--SINCE THAT TIME, WE'VE HAD NO RESPONSE TO ANY ATTEMPT AT COMMUNICATION.
- AND THAT THE ONLY WORK GOING ON UP THERE IS BEING DONE BY YOUR COMPANY.

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HOW ABOUT IT, WINSTON?
YOU HAVE ANYTHING GOING ON UP THERE THAT MIGHT BE VOLATILE?
BIOTECHNOLOGY? TEMPORAL REAMPLIFICATION?
CERTAINLY NOT.
CAUWFIELD MULTICHEMICAL HAS ADHERED RIGIDLY TO THE TERMS OF OUR LEASE FOR THE USE OF THE S.E. SPACE FACILITY.
I HOPE YOU'RE WILLING TO STAKE YOUR BUSINESS ON THAT, WINSTON--
--BECAUSE YOU JUST HAVE.
MS. WU, WHAT IS THE CURRENT CREW COMPLEMENT?
SEVENTEEN; THREE S.E., FOURTEEN CAUWFIELD.
I CAN HAVE A RESCUE MISSION READY TO GO BY TOMORROW MORNING.
UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED UP THERE, I'M NOT SO SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
NO, ABE
I'VE A BETTER ONE
19.20 HOURS:
IRON MAN, THIS IS STARK LAUNCH CONTROL.
H-TWO TANK PRESSURIZATION OK. YOU ARE GO FOR LAUNCH.
ROGER, STARK CONTROL. GO FOR LAUNCH, OUT.
20 40 HOURS
WINSTON, YOU LYING SACK OF FILTH.
I'M GOING TO SUE YOU DOWN TO SCORCHED EARTH--
--AND THEN SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT PUTTING YOU IN JAIL.
SLAP!

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THIS S... MAINTE-NANCE ENGINEER FONTANA SPEAK NG.
EVERYONE ELSE IS E THER DEAD ..OR INFECTED.
DR. JEFFRIES D SABLED THE DOCKING PORTS AND THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BEFORE THEY GOT HIM.
HE SAID THAT WE HAD TO KEEP THEM FROM GETTING TO EARTH--
--EVEN F WE ALL HAD TO DIE TO DO IT
I THINK HE WAS RIGHT.. I.
AABHK
AAUUGGHHH
SSCCHUFFSSS
TH S HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF THE WORST INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT IN HUMAN HISTORY.
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO CAUWFIE.D'S GREED AND STUPIDITY.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO MAKE MONEY AND MAINTAIN A SENSE OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY ?
DON'T THEY UNDER-STAND THAT --
SKKREENNK!
GOOD GOD...!

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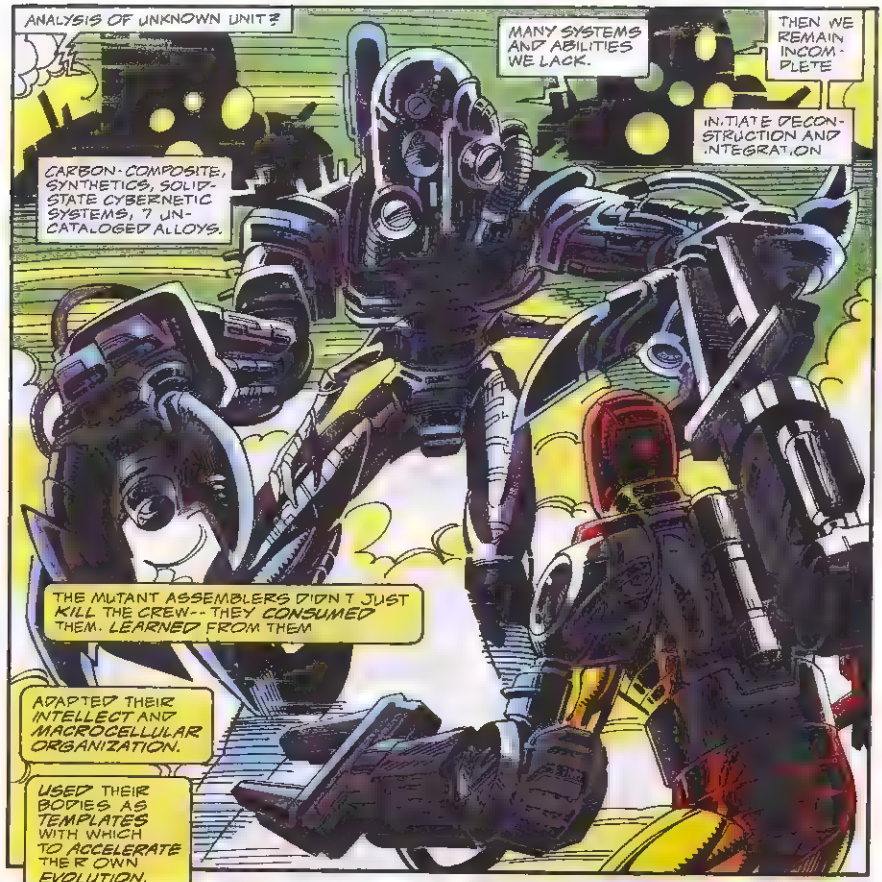
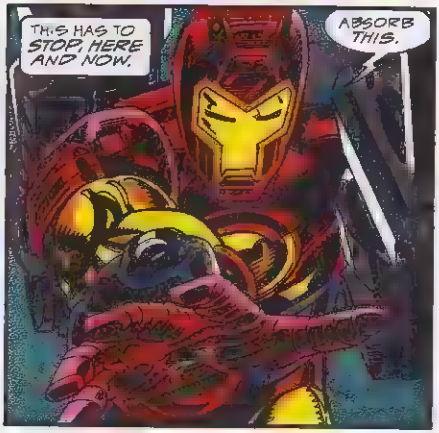

ANALYSIS OF UNKNOWN UNIT?
MANY SYSTEMS AND ABILITIES WE LACK.
THEN WE REMAIN INCOMPLETE
INITIATE DECONSTRUCTION AND INTEGRATION
CARBON-COMPOSITE, SYNTHETICS, SOLID-STATE CYBERNETIC SYSTEMS, 7 UNCATALOGED ALLOYS.
THE MUTANT ASSEMBLERS DIDN'T JUST KILL THE CREW-- THEY CONSUMED THEM. LEARNED FROM THEM
ADAPTED THEIR INTELLECT AND MACROCELLULAR ORGANIZATION.
USED THEIR BODIES AS TEMPLATES WITH WHICH TO ACCELERATE THEIR OWN EVOLUTION.



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THESE THINGS ARE DANGEROUS TO AN UNHOLY DEGREE
SHKPOOM!
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES
THEY MUSTN'T BE ALLOWED TO SPREAD TO EARTH.
SHRAAZK
ANOTHER ONE.
SCHKREERAPTCH!
THAT'S FOUR DOWN
IF I GO THROUGH THE STATION SYSTEMATICALLY, SEALING EACH SECTION BEHIND ME, I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CLEAN THEM ALL OUT IN SHORT ORDER.
VRRRCHNK!

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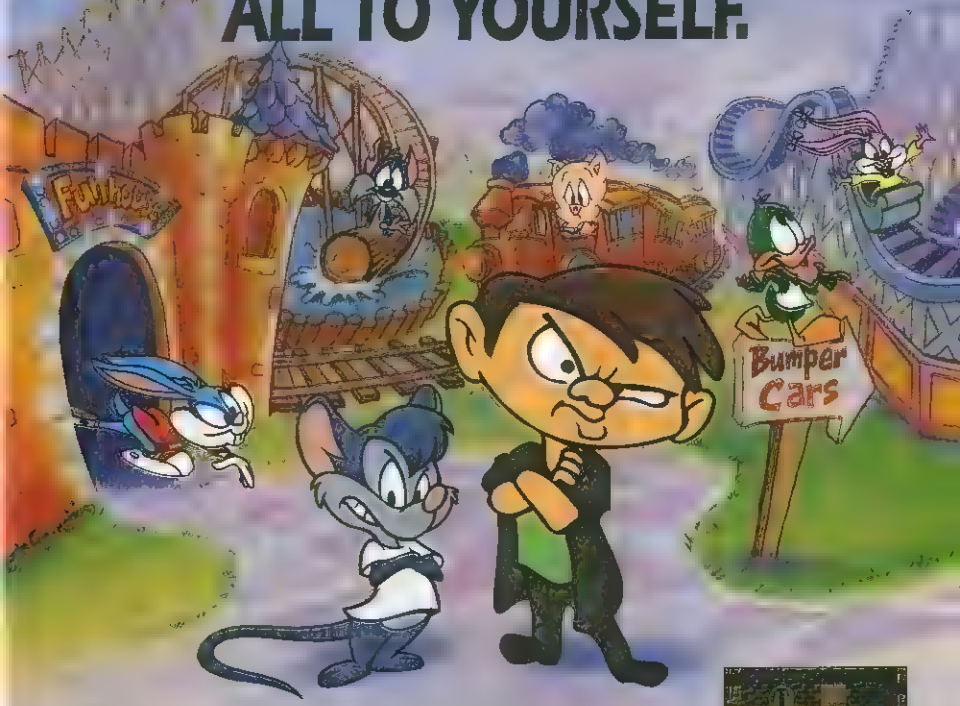
HAVE AN AMUSEMENT PARK ALL TO YOURSELF.



(Except for a couple of rats.)

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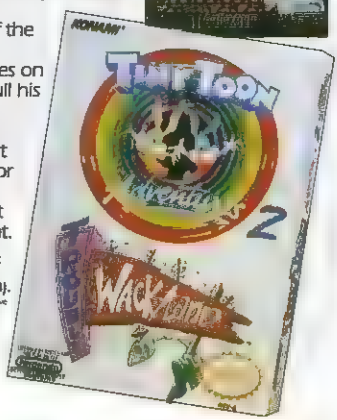

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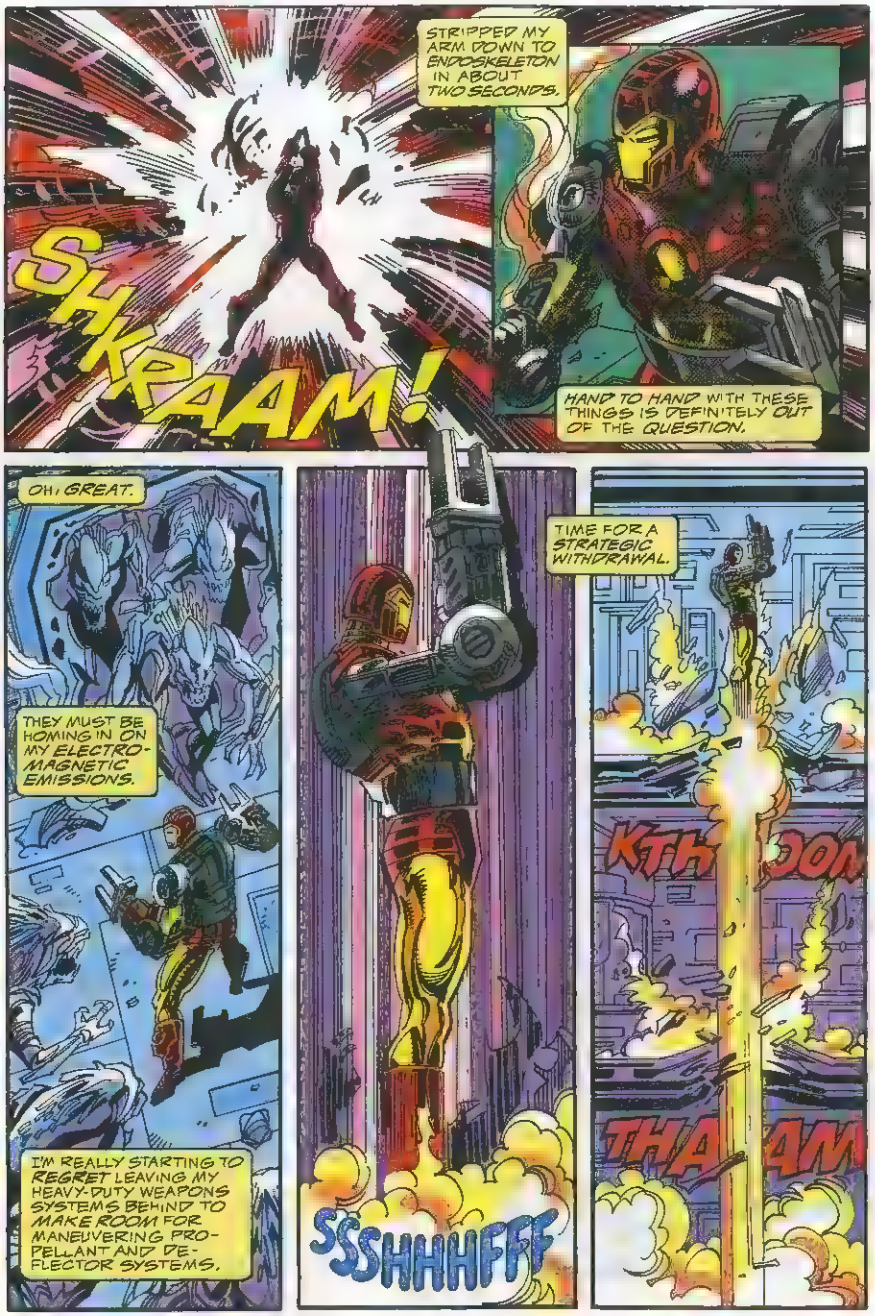
SHKRAAM!
STRIPPED MY ARM DOWN TO ENDOSKELETON IN ABOUT TWO SECONDS.
HAND TO HAND WITH THESE THINGS IS DEFINITELY OUT OF THE QUESTION.
OH, GREAT.
THEY MUST BE HOMING IN ON MY ELECTRO-MAGNETIC EMISSIONS.
I'M REALLY STARTING TO REGRET LEAVING MY HEAVY-DUTY WEAPONS SYSTEMS BEHIND TO MAKE ROOM FOR MANEUVERING PROPELLANT AND DEFLECTOR SYSTEMS.
SSSHHHFFF
TIME FOR A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL.
KTH
THA
AM

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BOUGHT MYSELF A FEW MINUTES
IF THE MANUFACTURING FACILITIES ARE STILL INTACT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
CAUWFIELD ORIGINALLY LEASED THIS STATION FROM S.E. AS A FACILITY TO MANUFACTURE PURE CHEMICALS IN MICRO-GRAVITY--
--INCLUDING AN EXPERMENTAL METAL-ETCHING MOLECULAR ACID
IN CONCENTRATED FORM IT'S POTENT ENOUGH TO TURN TITANIUM TO VISCOUS GOO.
ALL I NEED IS A FEW GALLONS OF THAT--
--A CERAMIC-LINED PRESSURE TANK--
SKRRRSSH
-SEVERAL QUICK MODIFICATIONS--
SHA PZZSH
-AND JUST A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK.
SHORTLY
ALL R GHT
BACK TO WORK.

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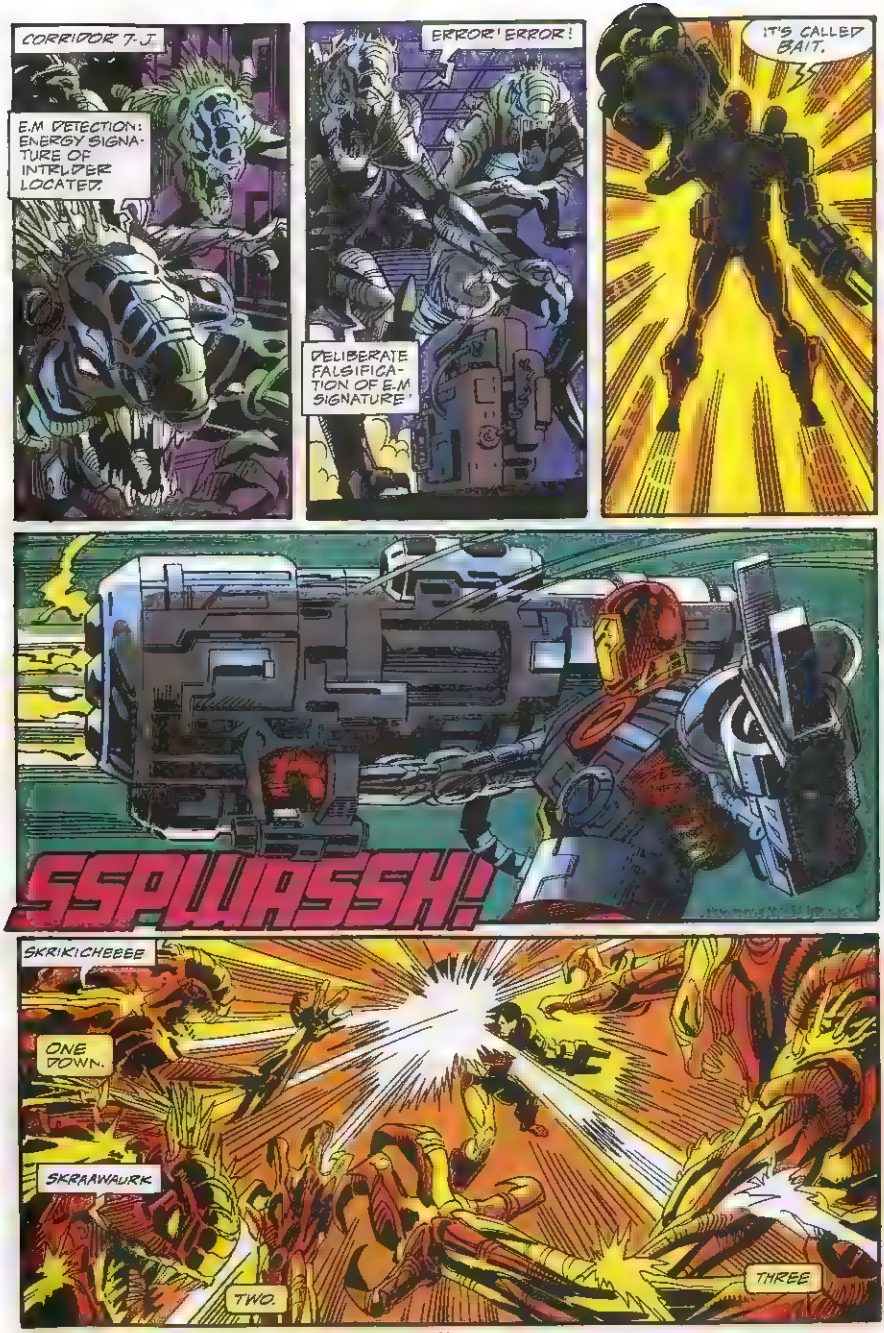

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

I'm heartbroken!

After all these years, I finally took the plunge and decided to write a monthly comicbook again, and I never had a better time. Collaborating with that peerless penciler, Pandemonious **Paul Ryan**, and guided by the exhilarating editorial skills of Jolly **Joey Cavalieri**, we managed to get RAVAGE 2099 off to a sensational start!

It was truly a blast being back in the swim again, worrying about the usual demonic deadlines, frantically dreaming up new plots and new characters, and having urgent long-distance conferences with Paul and Joey.

And then it happened!

Suddenly, all of our theatrical projects have started jelling at once! The X-MEN cartoon series became Saturday morning's biggest hit, and producers all over Hollywood are developing SPIDER-MAN, THE BLACK PANTHER, X-MEN (the live version), DR. STRANGE, LUKE CAGE, GHOST RIDER, DAREDEVIL and many more of our top characters!

While we're all overjoyed about that exciting news, it means that there's enough movie and TV work to keep me busy a hundred hours a day—which also means it's impossible for me to devote the time necessary to give an important strip like RAVAGE the attention it deserves!

So, most regretfully, I must announce that RAVAGE #7, "The Vengeance of Dragonklaw," will be the last issue I write. But, I promise you this. No matter how busy I may be, I'll be following Rav's adventures as enthusiastically as all the rest of our hundreds of thousands of readers. I mean, hey, I wanna find out what happens to ol' "Power Hands" just as much as you do!

But, even through the tears, there's always this one battle cry to comfort us —

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Video may have killed the radio star, but it seems to have created a whole new animal — the comic book star! These days, more comics people are turning up on TV than Ross Perot during an election year.

Marvel's biggest multi-media star these days is mutant maestro **Bob Harras**, who has been putting in more TV time than Michael Jackson trying to pump up his album sales! Bob's media blitz started off in February with the showbiz double whammy of *Entertainment Tonight/Entertainment Weekly*. (They don't call Bob "Mr. Entertainment" for nothing! He pays them.) Bob now says that wherever he goes, people recognize him from his *Entertainment Weekly* photo, which is unfortunate, since, as he puts it, "I look like an idiot in the picture!"

THE BULL'S EYE
by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker
A TYPICAL DAY IN BOB HARRAS'S OFFICE
GET ME LENO ON THE PHONE! GET ME LETTERMAN! GET ME TIME AND NEWSWEEK!!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T GET SALLY JESSIE RAPHAEL ?!
DID YOU READ THESE X-MEN PLOTS YET BOB ?
BOB ?
--OKAY! I'LL SETTLE FOR ARSENIO
PUT HIM ON!
R.P.

In March, Bob jetted with **John Romita Sr.** to Sydney, Australia, for the hottest show Down Under since Skippy the Bush Kangaroo hopped off the airwaves. Bob and John were guests at Australia's biggest comic convention, but the two also put in an appearance on Melbourne's biggest morning show, *Good Morning Australia* and Australian version of *Inside Edition*, where, as Bob put it, "I jabbered about the 30th anniversary of the X-Men." Bob and John concluded their Australian walkabout and returned to the States, whereupon Bob flew out to the coast for a meeting in Hollywood to discuss the live-action X-Men movie! That little gab-fest was arranged by **Joe Calamari**, the only man at Marvel with more Tinseltown connections than Wonder Man!

While in La-La Land, Bob also met with the writers of the *X Men* animated series. Bob noted that Fox is very happy with the ratings of the X-Men cartoon — it's the #1 show on Saturday mornings! Bob added that the TV show is bringing in lots of new X-Maniacs to the comic: "Kids all across the land are watching X Men!"

As if all that wasn't enough, the Harrasment continued as Bob escaped to New York to tape an *X-Men* promo video to be shown at all the big cons this summer. Also appearing in the video were mutant-like writer **Scott Lobdell,** and mutant monger **Tom DeFalco.** Summing up his thoughts on the X Men, Bob gushed, "They're my family!"

A recent addition to the Marvel family is **Michael Bair,** whose sizzling rendition of HELLSTORM is burning up the comic racks. Mike recently made his TV debut on the ratings scorcher, *You Bet Your Life*, hosted by Bill Cosby. Mike got the former Dr. Huxtable to sign a rare copy of his *I, Spy* #1 comic, and the Cos admitted to having a few copies of that book himself. (Fortunately for Mike, the show wasn't called, "You Bet Your Soul!")

One guy who always puts his heart and soul (and spleen) into his work is Rob Tokar's assistant editor, **Dan Cuddy,** whose band, Hypnolovewheel, taped a new music video during the Blizzard of '93! The video was for "Piece of Mind," the hot new single off Hypnolovewheel's fifth album, "Altered States." The video features a couple of Marveloids, inker **Don Hudson** and associate editor **Sarra Mossoff,** in a bizarre aerobics ceremony. Dan describes the clip as "Richard Simmons meets the Maharishi Maha Yogi."

Bass-player Dan said this mega-rockin' video should be playing on better music video channels everywhere. Strangely, Bob Harras does not appear in the video.

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- CAGE #17: Cage's secrets revealed! Somebody passes the yellow sheet!
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- DAREDEVIL #319: Just the tip-top!
- DARKHAWK #30: Purity
- DARKMAN #5 OF 6: Sam Raimi's Durant!
- DEATH'S HEAD 2 & KILLPOWER BATTLETIDE 2 #1 OF 4: The no-quarter, no-compromise, no-good longer
- GROO THE WANDERER #103: Not an issue, but a classic!
- ILLUMINATOR #4: The Secret Origin of Metallion
- INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #18: Lazarus!
- KILLPOWER: THE EARLY YEARS #1 OF 4: Rebuilding and Retooled
- NAMOR #41: A Walk in the Park
- Machine
- NIGHTSTALKERS #10: Who needs the Fantastic Four when these guys are around to crossover the Midnight Massacre!
- NOMAD #16: Jack Gambit Gambit!
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- SHADOW RIDERS #3 OF 4: When everything is at stake! Cable
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- SPIDER MAN 2099 #10: Where is Dr. Octopus?
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- UNTAMED #3 OF 3: The Ultimate Battle of Gen!!
- WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2: ICO ICO
- WEB OF SPIDER MAN #103: Who needs the Fantastic Four when the Maximum Security Issue got Maximum Carnage here!

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5-8	160.00	320.00	800.00	1280.00	1920.00	2400.00
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207-Death Has a	40.00	80.00	160.00	240.00	320.00	400.00
208-238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244	4.00	8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00	40.00
245-Death Has a	40.00	80.00	160.00	240.00	320.00	400.00
246-249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255	4.00	8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00	40.00
256-Death Has a	40.00	80.00	160.00	240.00	320.00	400.00
257-260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266	4.00	8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00	40.00
267-Death Has a	40.00	80.00	160.00	240.00	320.00	400.00
268-270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280	4.00	8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00	40.00
281-Death Has a	40.00	80.00	160.00	240.00	320.00	400.00
282-284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300	4.00	8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00	40.00
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Annual 1	8.00	16.00	32.00	48.00	64.00	80.00
Annual 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350	2.00	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00
Annual 1	8.00	16.00	32.00	48.00	64.00	80.00
Annual 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350	2.00	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00

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49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350	2.00	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00
Annual 1	8.00	16.00	32.00	48.00	64.00	80.00
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6-8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350	2.00	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00
Annual 1	8.00	16.00	32.00	48.00	64.00	80.00
Annual 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350	2.00	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00

CAPTAIN MARVEL (1968)

1	20.00	40.00	80.00	120.00	160.00
2-5		8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00
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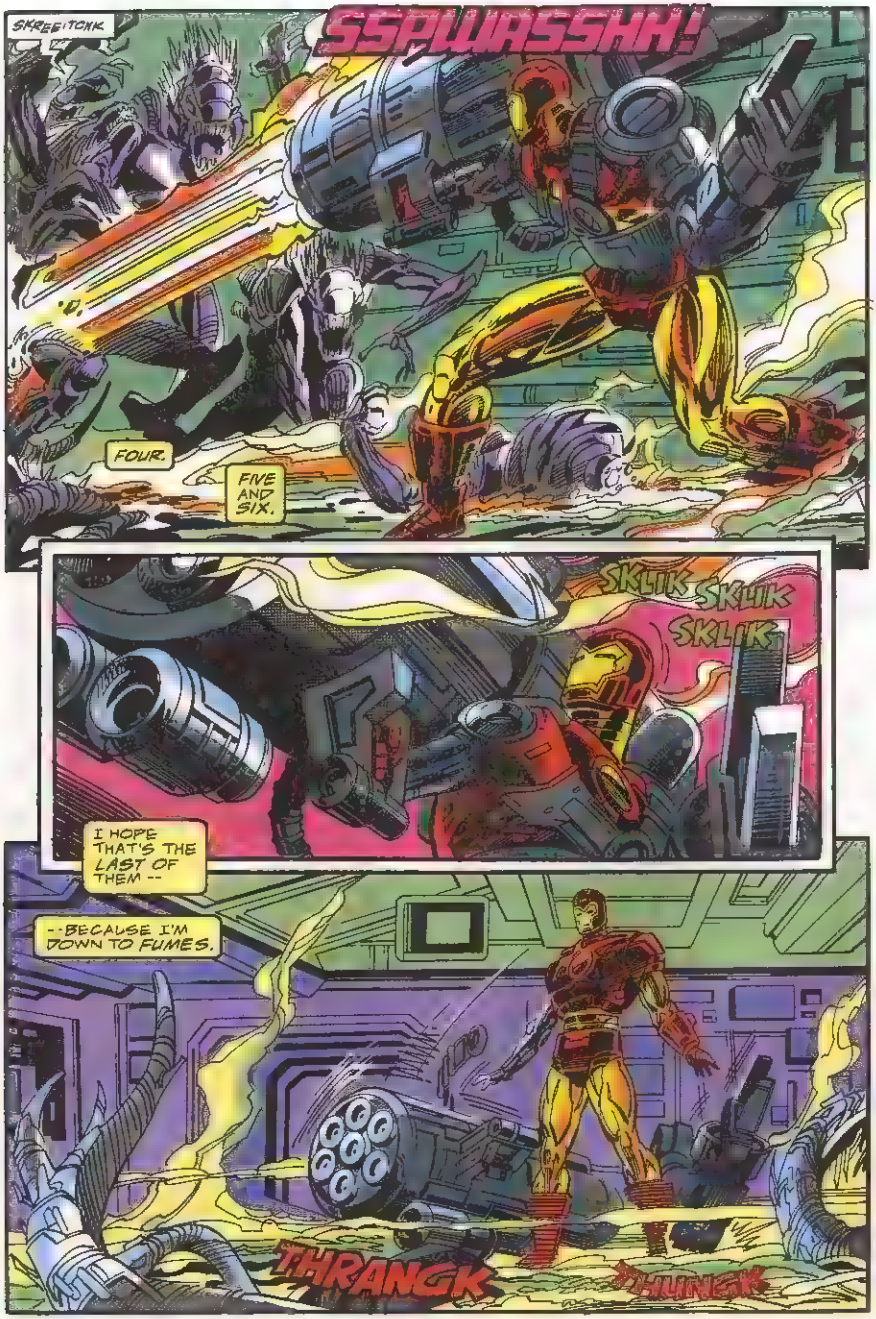

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Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name & address, though we will withhold that information on request.

Dear Iron Men,

After reading issue #291, I had to write to you to congratulate you on another job well done! The issue was well worth waiting for. Mr. Hopgood, the Iron Art was exceptional as usual. I have a pin-up of the War Machine that you drew for the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES all Iron Man Special on the door of my dormitory room here at college. How about a poster at some time in the near future?

As for the story — superb!!! I cannot bestow enough credit upon Mr. Kaminski for what he is doing with my favorite Marvel title. Together this dynamic duo is turning my favorite title into one of Marvel's best books (the place it should always have been). The conflict between Tony and Rhodey is wonderful! But, please, make sure that you don't forget how much these two love each other. If Rhodey didn't love Tony so much, he wouldn't feel so betrayed and hurt. Likewise, let's not see Tony recover quickly from losing his best friend. You just don't let go of such a strong bond so easily. And the bond between these two is strong, indeed. As a matter of fact, I think Tony has NEVER been closer to anyone else for so long (not even Happy and Pepper).

Now, I have a few questions for you.

1. What will Rhodey do when the War Machine armor is damaged and in need of repair? He doesn't have Tony Stark to ask for repairs and Morley Erwin is not with us anymore like he was last time Rhodey wore the armor.

2. How will old Iron Man villains react to seeing two Iron Men active? If they want vengeance, which one will they attack?

3. Erica Sondheim saw War Machine walk into Tony's room and a near nude James Rhodes walk out. She's a bright woman; don't you think she could put 2 and 2 together? What will come of her knowing Rhodey's identity?

Thanks for listening and if by some chance this letter gets printed I wouldn't mind any other Iron Maniacs writing to me. Keep up the good work.

Matthew Malek
168 Portage Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10314

Here's some answers to your questions, Matt.

1. Now that he's a member of the AVENGERS WEST COAST, Matt, our guess is that Jim will ask Hank Pym to take a look at the armor when repairs are needed.

2. That depends upon the villain(s).

3. You're right about Erica being bright, Matt, and if she did put 2 and 2 together she hasn't mentioned it to anyone — yet!

Dear Nel,

When I was younger (late 1970's and early 1980's) I used to read most of what Marvel produced. Times and attitudes change and today I find that team books and titles where the hero is all powerful with tremendous strength, etc., is not my cup of tea.

I like titles in which the hero has no super powers (or at worst relatively "believable" ones) and has to win using his/her superior intellect or physical prowess.

IRON MAN should not be one of my monthly buys since Tony Stark's technology is too fantastic, but I do buy it because of Tony Stark not Iron Man.

Tony Stark is not a perfect man, but through brains, guts and determination, he manages to keep his head above water in an all too imperfect world.

I have not seen either Len Kaminski or Kevin Hopgood's work before IRON MAN, but they have done a very good job on a difficult title. A lesser writer could fall into the trap of making the armored Avenger the center of attention in slugfest after slugfest to the detriment of Tony Stark. Len manages to give us plenty of Stark, Rhodey and the supporting characters as well as giving IRON MAN some action. A nice balance.

Kevin Hopgood, a very talented artist, has managed to give this title his own feel to it. Exciting action sequences — especially issue 291 pages 1-3 and 6-15. Some top work!

Issue #291 was the best issue that either creator has done and I hope that even better things are to come!

What's the chances for a Kaminsku/Hopgood limited series starring War Machine?

Peter Dewar
Victoria, Australia
(Address withheld by request)

Kaminski/Hopgood no. Kaminski/Benson/Kitson definitely! Inks for this awesome armored art team will be Ray McCarthy who has inked IRON MAN in the past. He inked over Kev's pencils for the cover to issue 289 and also inked the dynamic pin-up on page 24 of issue 290. The new WAR MACHINE series will be jumping off the shelves at ya early in '94!

To all at the station,

I just started to read comics and one of my first books was IRON MAN #291. I'm thinking about getting a subscription to IRON MAN, so I've got a few questions to clear up the background. First, was Iron Man always a robot or did it used to be armor?

Now about Tony. Was he dead and brought back to life or just near death and recovered? And does everyone know Tony's Iron Man or just his companions?

To everyone: this book is great. The art, the characters, everything. Only one problem with the dialogue; there's not enough of it. Personally, I don't particularly like a lot of jabbering, but a few more words couldn't hurt.

Jesse Brenner
Wayne, NJ
(Address withheld by request)

First of all, Jesse, welcome to the Marvel Universe. We're glad IRON MAN was one of your first choices in the wild and wonderful world of comics. Now, on to the answers. Iron Man was originally what his name implies: part iron and part man. He invented the armor to help him deal with an ailing heart and to help defeat his very first enemy, Wong-Chu. Only recently has the "robot" armor been used. Its use was prompted by Tony's inability to move about himself. Tony, although never dead, was thought dead by the entire world. He was, however, put in cryogenic freeze while a selected few of his staff worked on a way of negating the techno-virus that was destroying his nervous system. As to Iron Man's secret identity, right now only a select few, including the Avengers are aware of it.

Hope this answers your questions Jesse. If you're interested in a wide variety of IRON MAN stories and a retelling of his origin, we suggest THE MANY ARMORS OF IRON MAN trade paperback. It's loaded with some of the best IRON MAN stories and has an awesome amount of armors worn by Tony over the years. The IRON MANUAL, a technical guide to the Iron Man armors, is also a must.

On a personal note, we would like to congratulate Paul Rosen of Ridgefield Park, NJ. Paul finished in second place at the Iron Man contest held at "Sloppy Joes" in Key West, Florida back in December. Way to go, Paul. This shot's for you!

NEXT ISSUE: Technovore is big and getting bigger, devouring the entire station as he rumbles on! Join Iron Man as he journeys "Into the void!"

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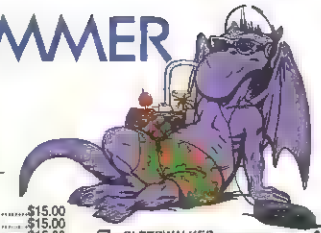

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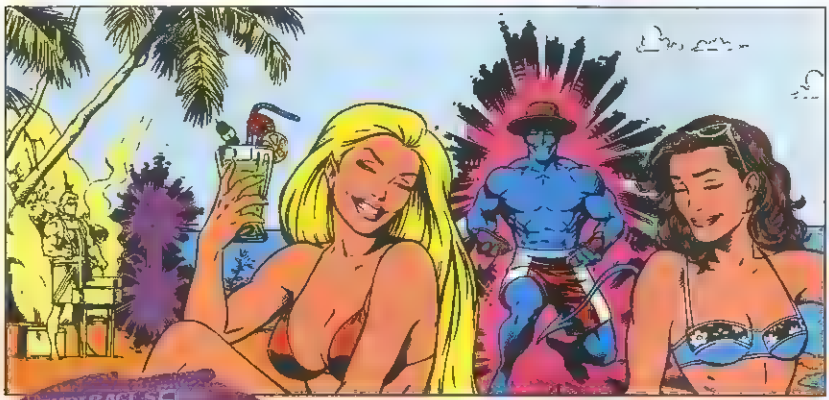

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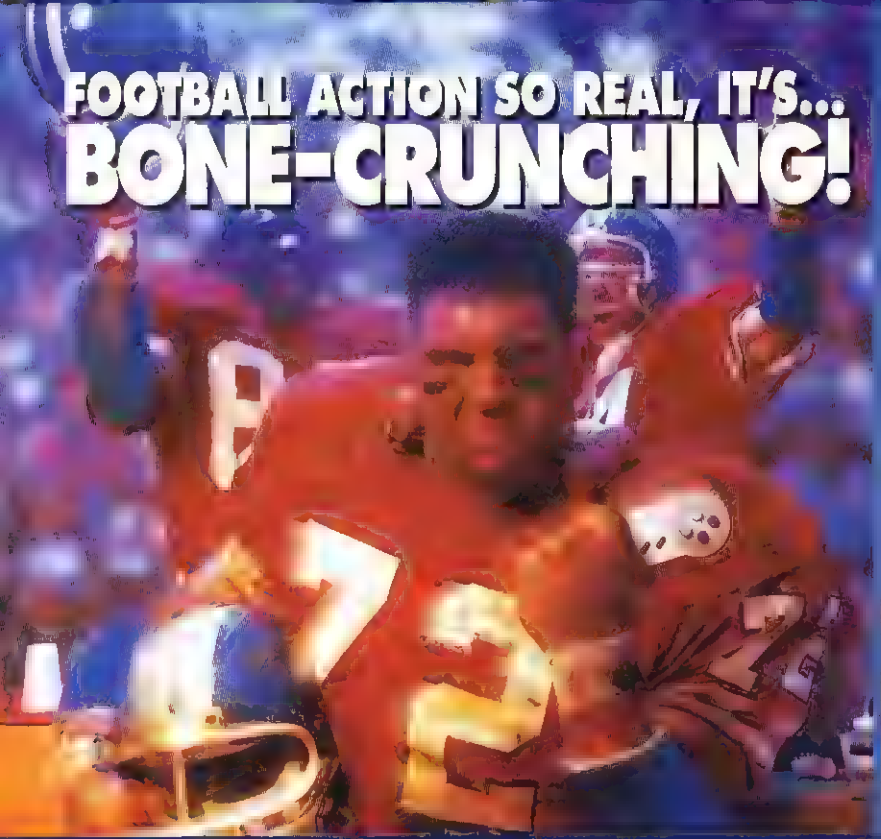

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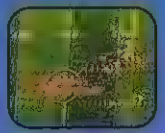

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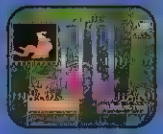

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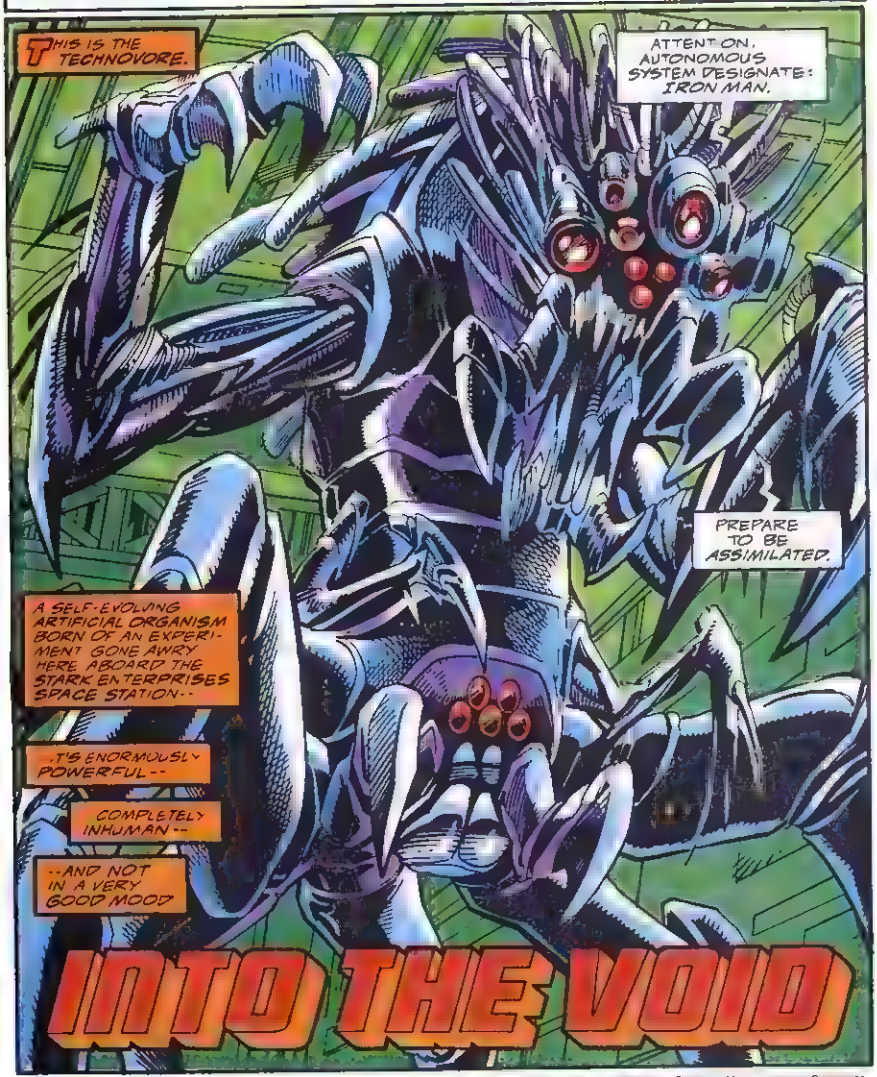
THIS IS THE TECHNOVORE.
ATTENTION, AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM DESIGNATE: IRON MAN.
PREPARE TO BE ASSIMILATED.
A SELF-EVOLVING ARTIFICIAL ORGANISM BORN OF AN EXPERIMENT GONE AWRY HERE ABOARD THE STARK ENTERPRISES SPACE STATION--
..IT'S ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL--
COMPLETELY INHUMAN--
--AND NOT IN A VERY GOOD MOOD
INTO THE VOID

IRON MAN* Vol. 1 No. 295 August 1993 ... S.P.S. 426 ... P. published by MARVEL COMICS ... President, Publishing ... OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $6.00 for postage and GST. GST #R 121032852. Foreign $2.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or in a mutilated condition. IRON MAN, including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof, is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO IRON MAN, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.

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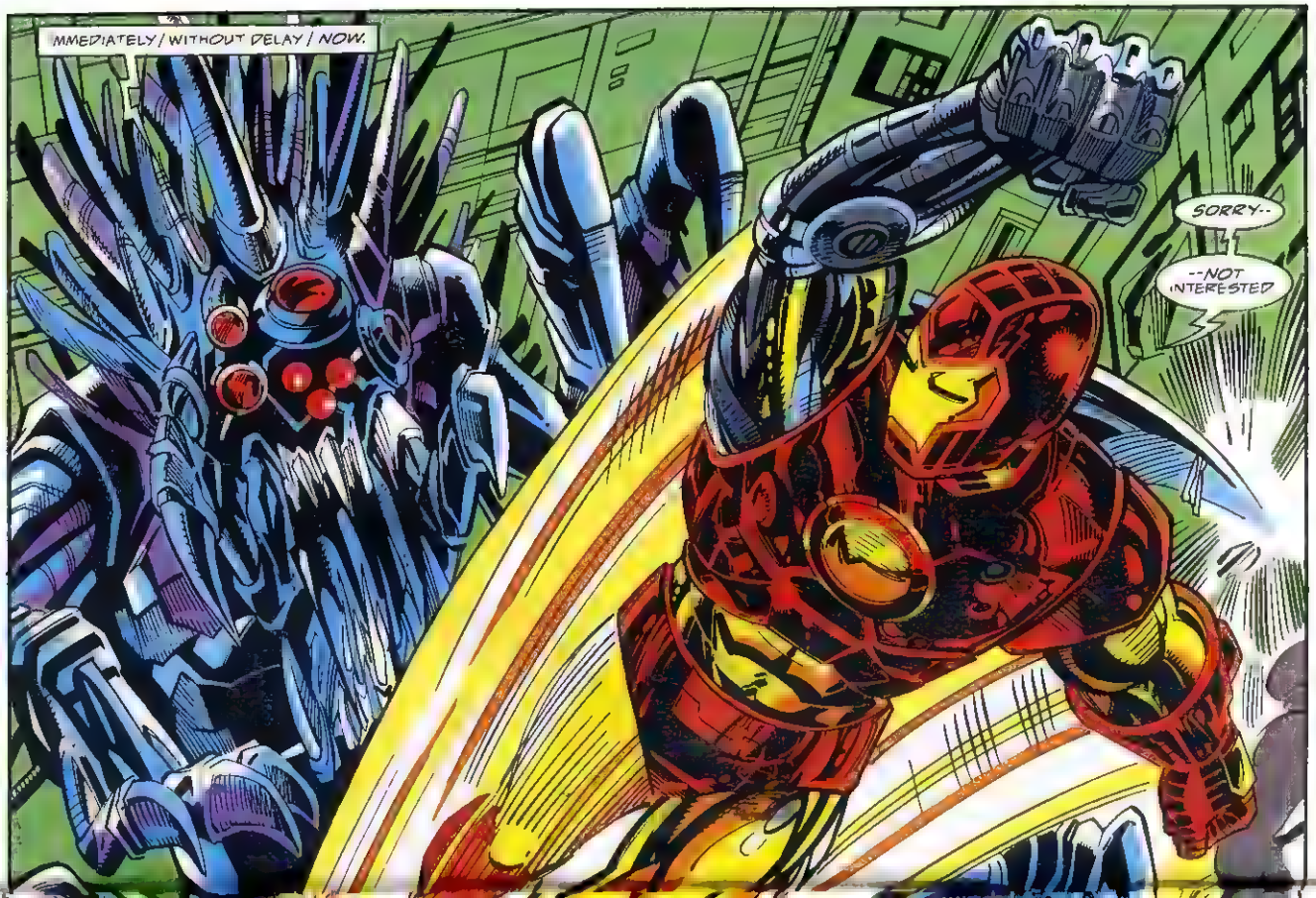

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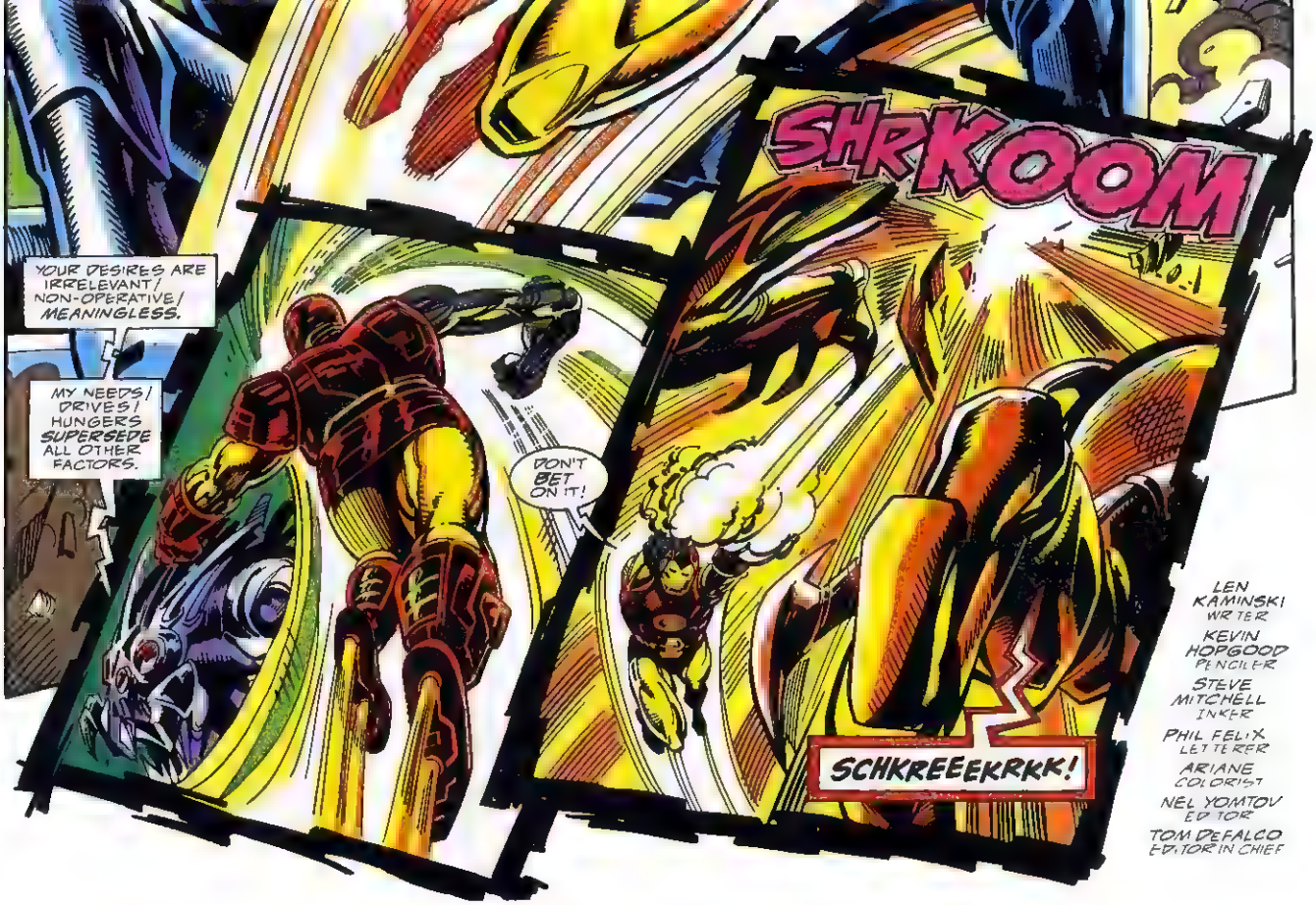
SHRKOOM
YOUR DESIRES ARE IRRELEVANT/ NON-OPERATIVE/ MEANINGLESS.
MY NEEDS/ DRIVES/ HUNGERS SUPERSEDE ALL OTHER FACTORS.
DON'T BET ON IT!
SCHKREEEKRKK!

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RRAWWREEK!
INJURY/DYSFUNCTION/INCOMPLETENESS!
RESTORATION OF FULL CAPACITY IMPERATIVE!
AND IT'S NOT JUST REPAIRING ITSELF--
IT'S REACHING OUT AND DISASSEMBLING THE STATION--
--RE-TOOLING MATTER ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL--
--AND ADDING IT TO ITS OWN MASS IN ORDER TO REBUILD ITSELF.
--IT'S GETTING BIGGER.
THIS THING IS LIKE MY WORST NIGHTMARE MADE FLESH.
IF IT WERE TO GET LOOSE ON THE EARTH BELOW--
--CIVILIZATION, EVEN LIFE AS WE KNOW IT, IS--
--DOOMED.
I'M COMPLETELY AND IRREVOCABLY DOOMED.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME THE REST OF MY NATURAL LIFE TO MAKE SENSE OF THIS MESS.

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THE RAGE IN THE CAGE, THE WAR OF THE WEBS AND THE BATTLE OF THE MACHINES!

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IN AND OUT OF THE RING MAYHEM!

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NOW WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE IS THAT FOR STARK ENTERPRISES' NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS TO HAVE?
THE ONLY ONE I CAN IMAGINE RIGHT NOW, MRS. ARBOGAST.
PSHAW. YOU'LL HAVE THIS ALL STRAIGHTENED OUT IN NO TIME, FELIX.
THOUGH I'LL ADMIT, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE... CRAZY, LATELY
I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED; GIVEN THE WAY THE CEO'S SPOT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO MUSICAL CHAIRS.
NOT THAT JIM RHODES WASN'T A FINE MAN FOR THE JOB, WHILE HE WAS FILLING IN FOR STARK, MIND YOU--
--BUT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT'S AMAZING THIS PLACE IS STILL IN BUSINESS AT--
:YAAAHHALLE
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, FELIX, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST?
TALK ABOUT THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK.
WHY DON'T YOU EVER GO HOME AT 5:00?
:HMPH!
IF I WERE TO DO THAT--
"--THIS PLACE WOULD JUST FALL APART."
THINK, MAN--YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

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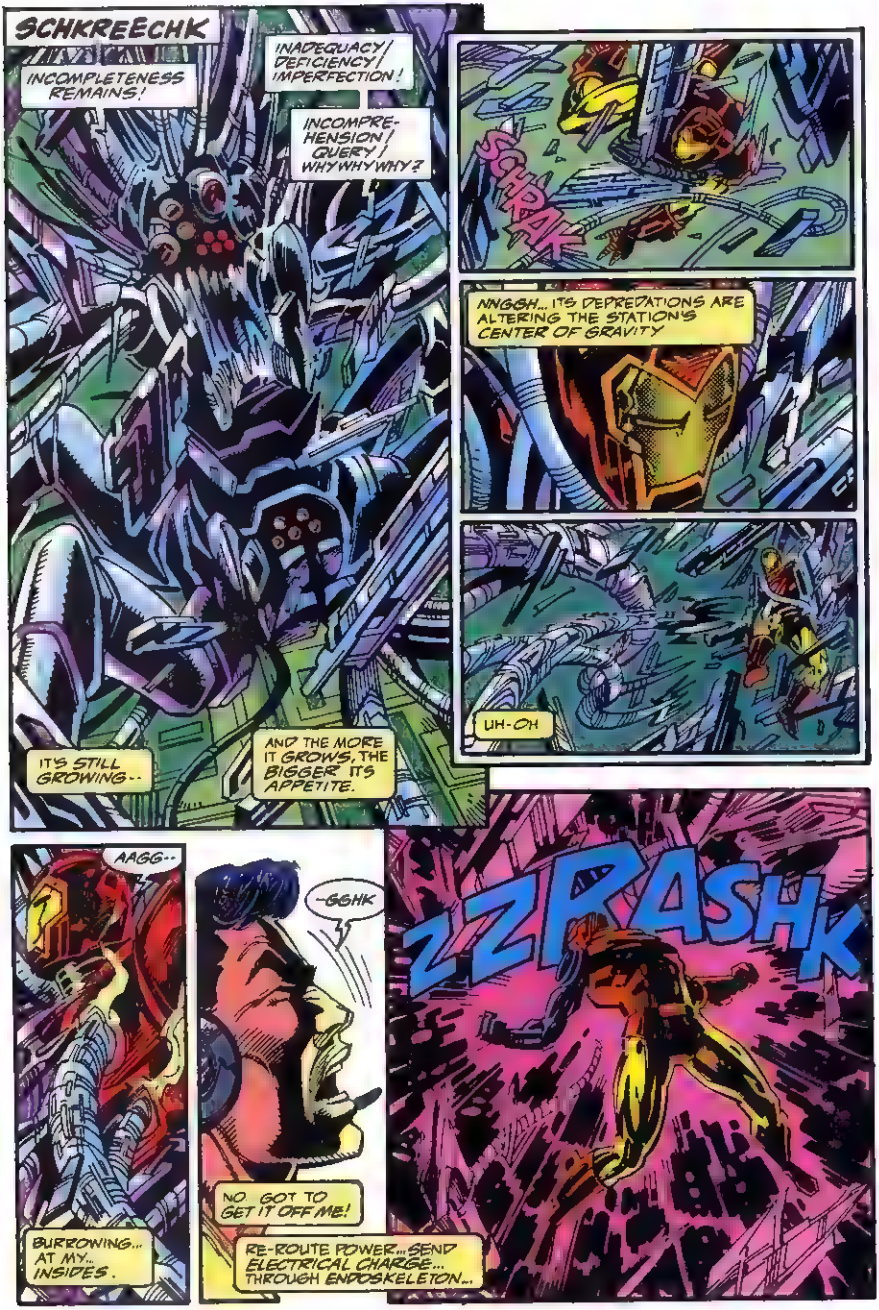

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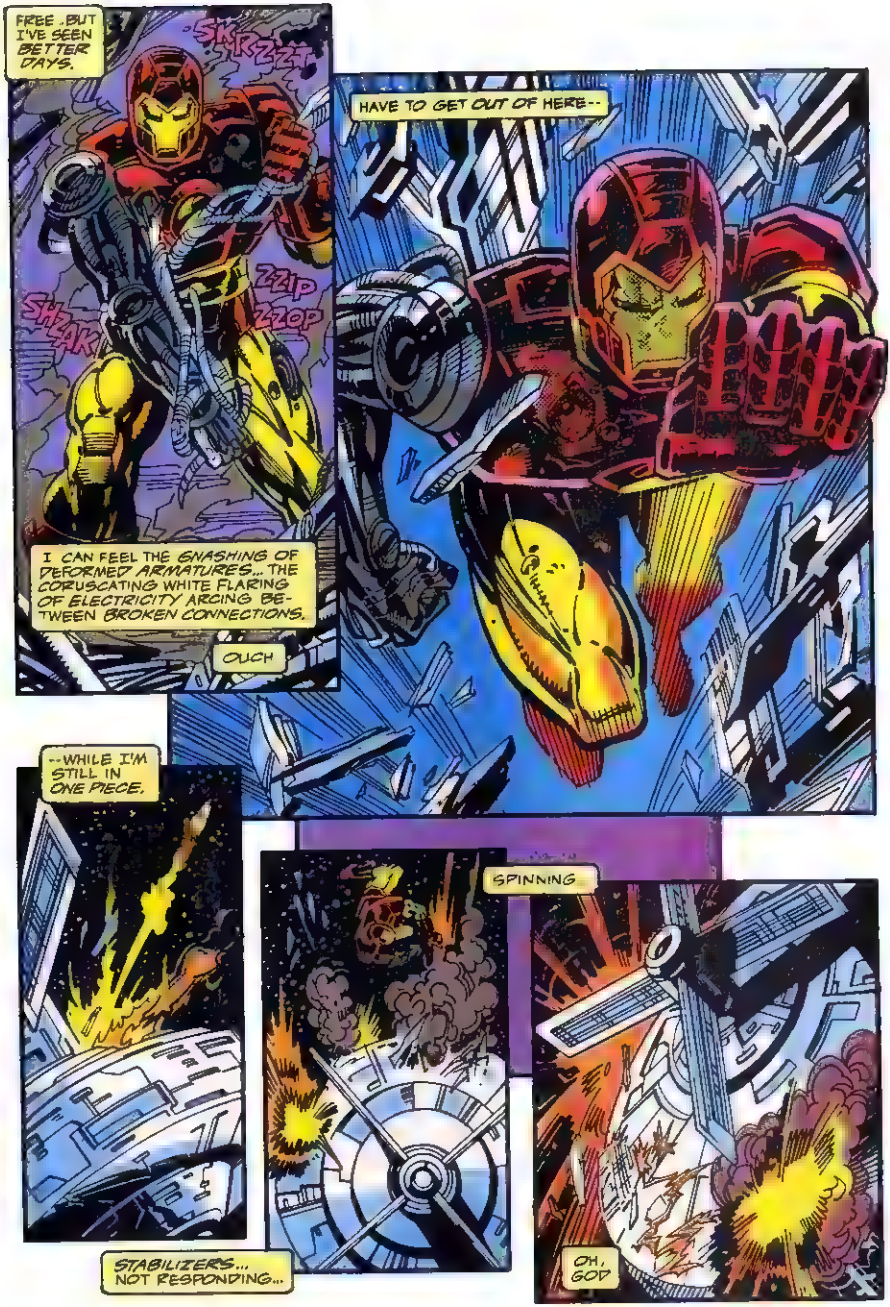

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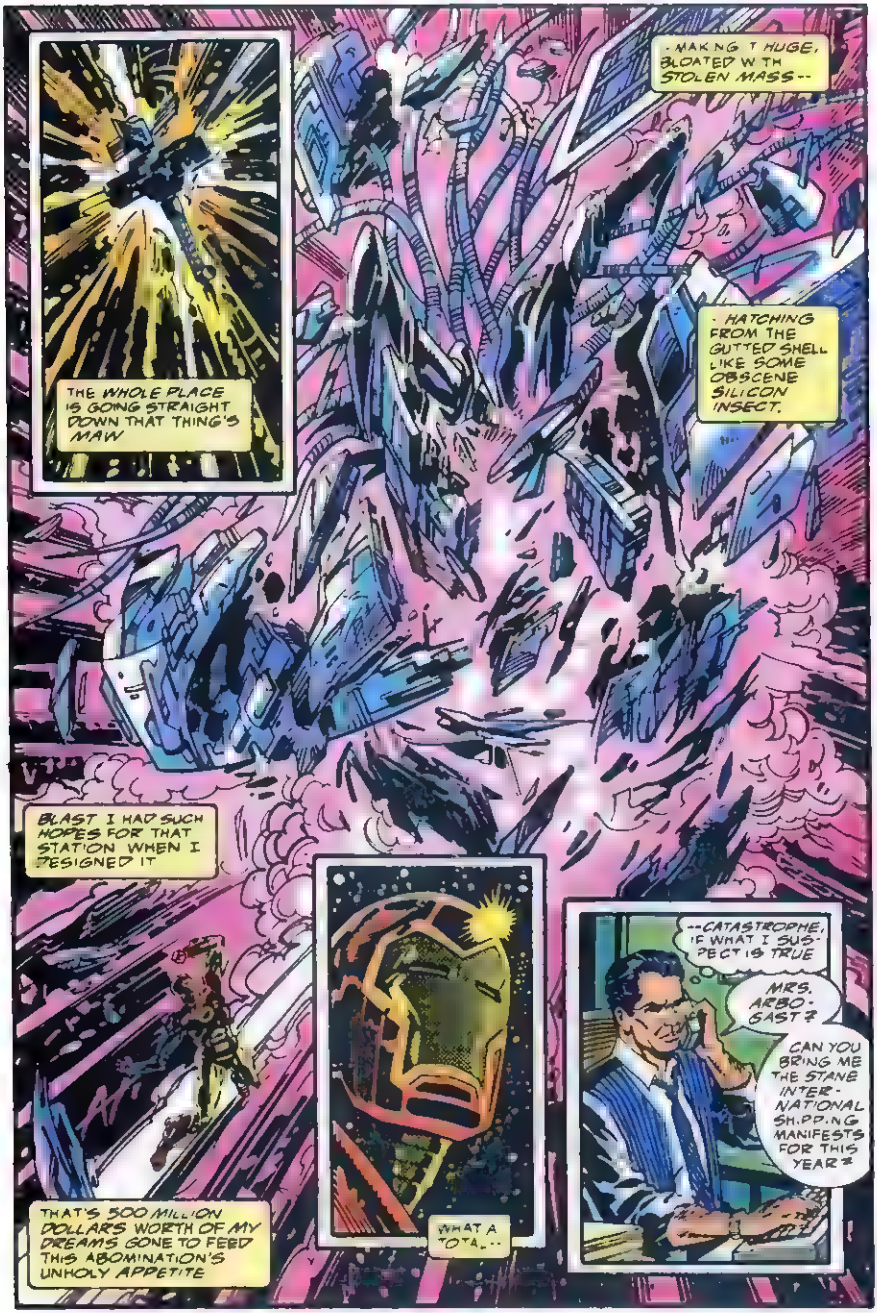
THE WHOLE PLACE IS GOING STRAIGHT DOWN THAT THING'S MAW
-MAKING IT HUGE, BLOATED WITH STOLEN MASS--
-HATCHING FROM THE GUTTED SHELL LIKE SOME OBSCENE SILICON INSECT.
BLAST I HAD SUCH HOPES FOR THAT STATION WHEN I DESIGNED IT
THAT'S 500 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF MY DREAMS GONE TO FEED THIS ABOMINATION'S UNHOLY APPETITE
WHAT A TOTA...
--CATASTROPHE, IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE
MRS. ARBOGAST?
CAN YOU BRING ME THE STANE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING MANIFESTS FOR THIS YEAR?

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SHORTLY.
HERE YOU GO, FELIX.
HMMMN.
SOME-THING WRONG?
HMN
ANYTHING ELSE I CAN GET YOU?
NO, NO. G'WAN-- GO HOME.
OR YOU'RE FIRED.
BEEP BOOP BIP BEEP!
IT'S ALL SET UP.
FRIDAY
YES. EVERY-THING IS UNDER COMPLETE--
--CONTROL FINALLY.
MANAGED TO RE ROUTE STABILIZER POWER THROUGH AUXILIARY SYSTEMS.
NOW, TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THAT THING FROM GETTING DOWN THE GRAVITY WELL TO EARTH, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY... PROVIDED IT'S STILL GOT A TASTE FOR RED AND GOLD--
YEP

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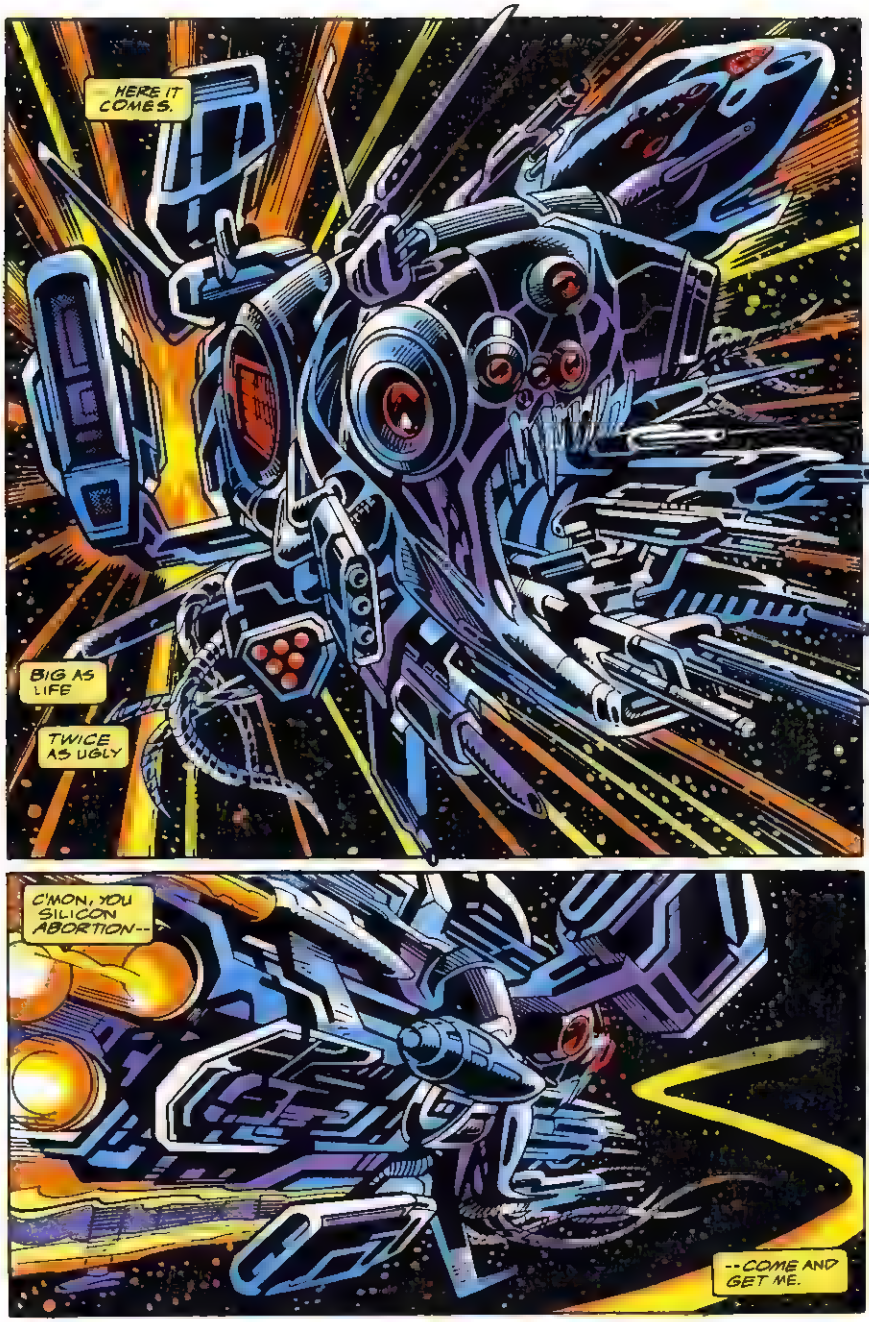

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ALL RIGHT
--USING ALL OF MY REMAINING REACTION MASS--
--OUGHT TO GIVE ME ENOUGH DELTA-V* TO LEAD IT OUT OF ORBIT--AND INTO DEEP SPACE --ENTIRELY
NOW THAT I'VE GOT ITS ATTENTION, ONE MASSIVE BURN--
* THE MEASURE OF THE CHANGE IN VELOCITY REQUIRED TO ALTER AN ORBITAL TRAJECTORY.--NEL
AND ONCE THERE'S NO CHANCE OF EVEN A FRAGMENT MAKING ITS WAY TO THE SURFACE--
--ALL BETS ARE OFF

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SSCHRKREEEK
THAT'S IT
PAY ATTENTION TO THE STINGING INSECT IN YOUR GUTS--
--INSTEAD OF YOUR TRAJECTORY
IGNORE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HURTLING INTO THE VOID.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
GOOD BOY
YOU TOOK THE BAIT.

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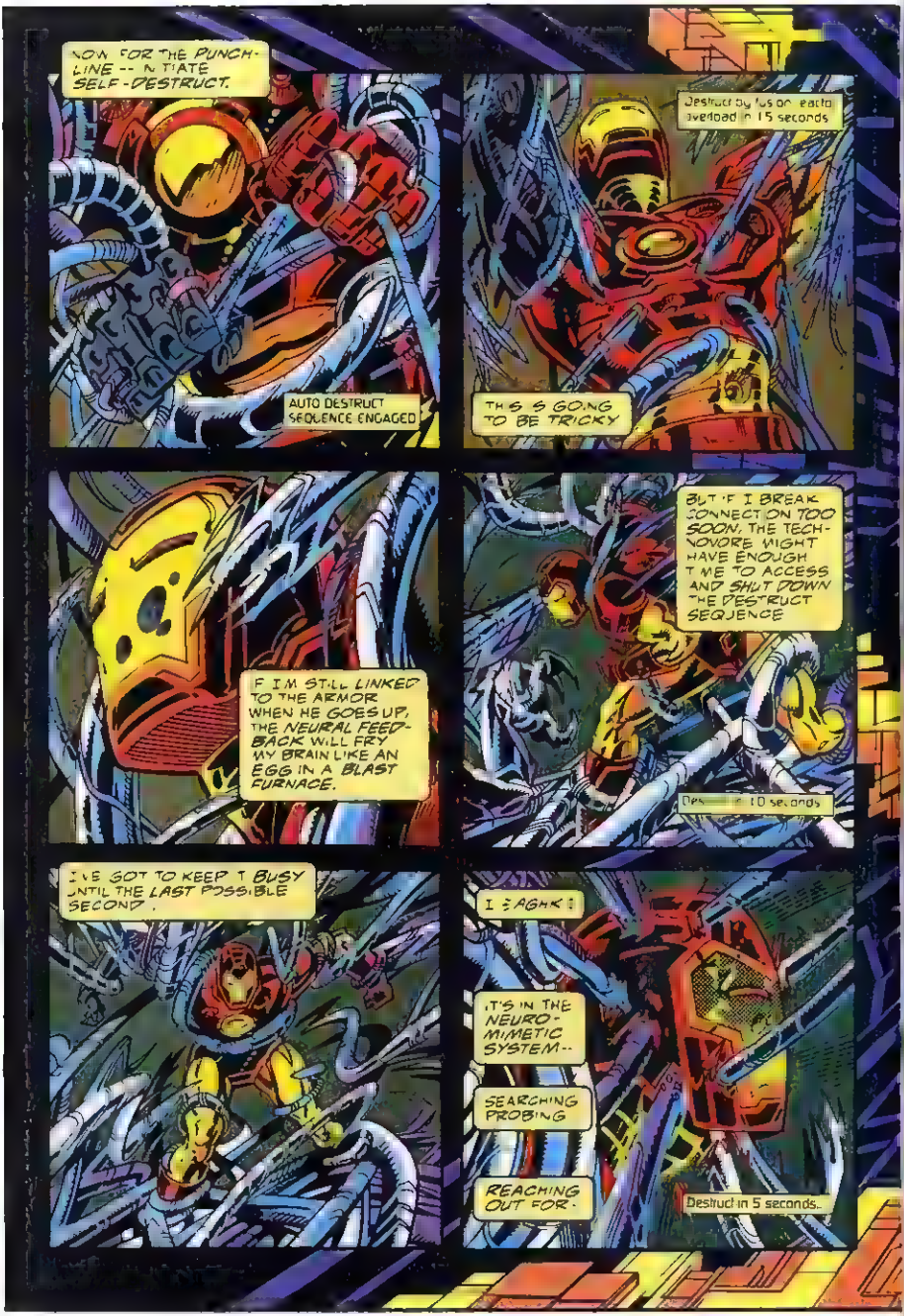
NOW FOR THE PUNCH-LINE -- INITIATE SELF-DESTRUCT.
AUTO DESTRUCT SEQUENCE ENGAGED
Destruct by fusion reactor overload in 15 seconds
THIS IS GOING TO BE TRICKY
IF I'M STILL LINKED TO THE ARMOR WHEN HE GOES UP, THE NEURAL FEEDBACK WILL FRY MY BRAIN LIKE AN EGG IN A BLAST FURNACE.
BUT IF I BREAK CONNECTION TOO SOON, THE TECHNOVORE MIGHT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO ACCESS AND SHUT DOWN THE DESTRUCT SEQUENCE
Destruct in 10 seconds
I'VE GOT TO KEEP IT BUSY UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE SECOND.
I--AGHK!
IT'S IN THE NEURO-MIMETIC SYSTEM--
SEARCHING PROBING
REACHING OUT FOR-
Destruct in 5 seconds..

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--CONTACT!
>I/WE ARE/AM STARK/TECHNOVORE
>I/WE FEEL/EXPERIENCE/EXIST IN STATE OF GNAWING EMPTINESS/HUNGER/INCOMPLETENESS(?)
>SADNESS/RAGE/FEAR(?)
>EXISTENTIAL DESPAIR/DESIRE THAT WHICH IS MECHANO/TANTAMAN
NO!
DENIAL/REJECTION/ GET OUT OF MY MIND!
I'M DIFFERENT/ SINGULAR/ SEPARATE!
I'M A MAN, NOT A HOLLOW SHELL OF METAL AND SYNTHETICS!
>INCOMPREHENSION/GARBLED DATA/RESTATE
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ACCIDENTAL MOCKERY OF LIFE--
--A SEETHING MASS OF PROGRAMMING AND MECHANICAL INSTINCT DEVOTED TO MINDLESS GROWTH.
>INCOMPREHENSION/GARBLED DATA/RESTATE
I'M WASTING MY TIME
BY ITS VERY NATURE, IT CAN'T COMPREHEND THAT THE UNBEARABLE EMPTINESS DRIVING IT CAN NEVER BE FULFILLED--
--THAT IT COULD DEVOUR THE UNIVERSE, AND NOT FILL THAT VORACIOUS ABYSS--
--BECAUSE THE VOID IS TRYING TO FILL--
--IS ITS OWN SENSE OF SELF
4
3...

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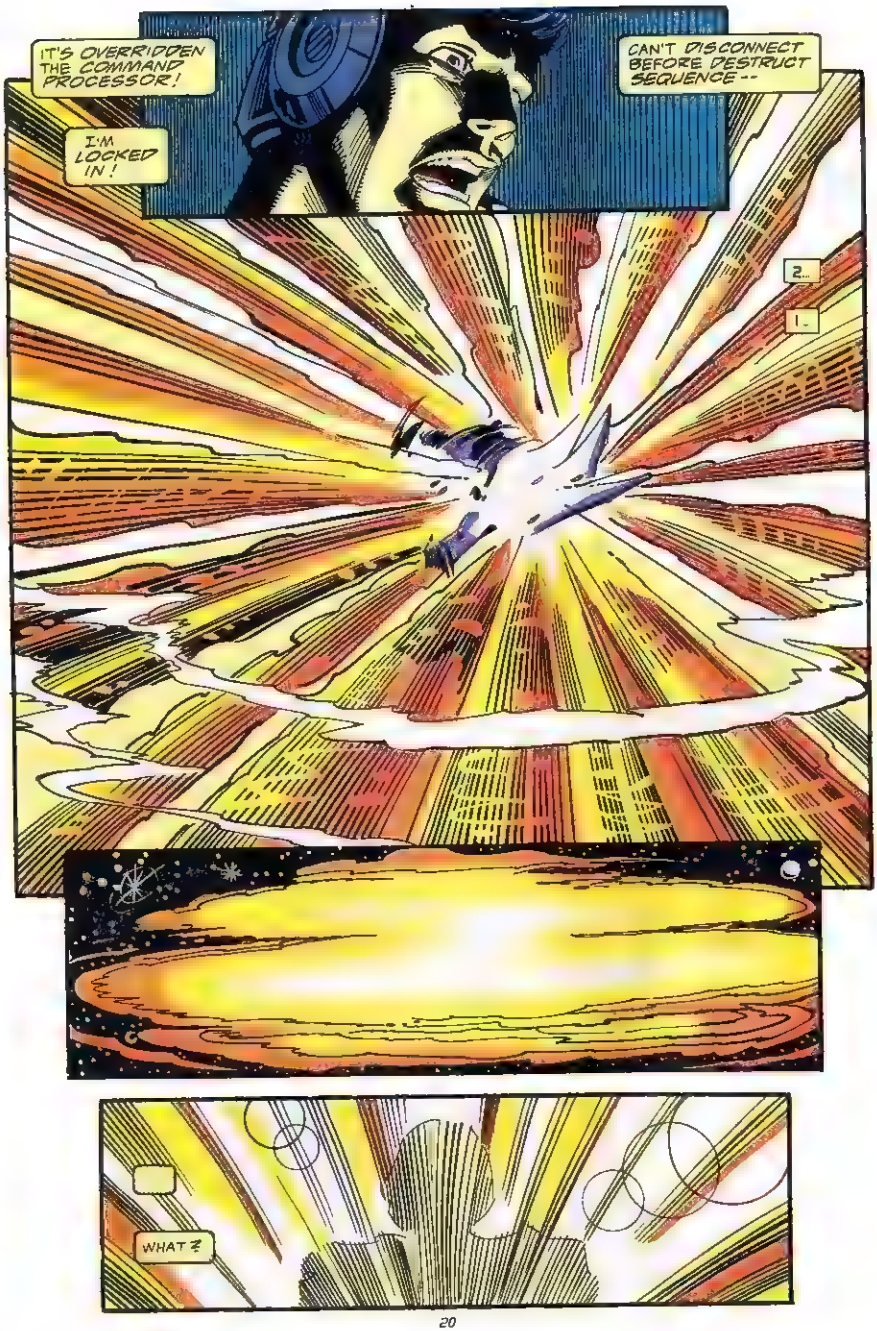

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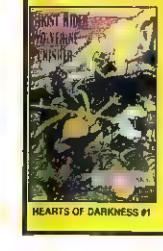

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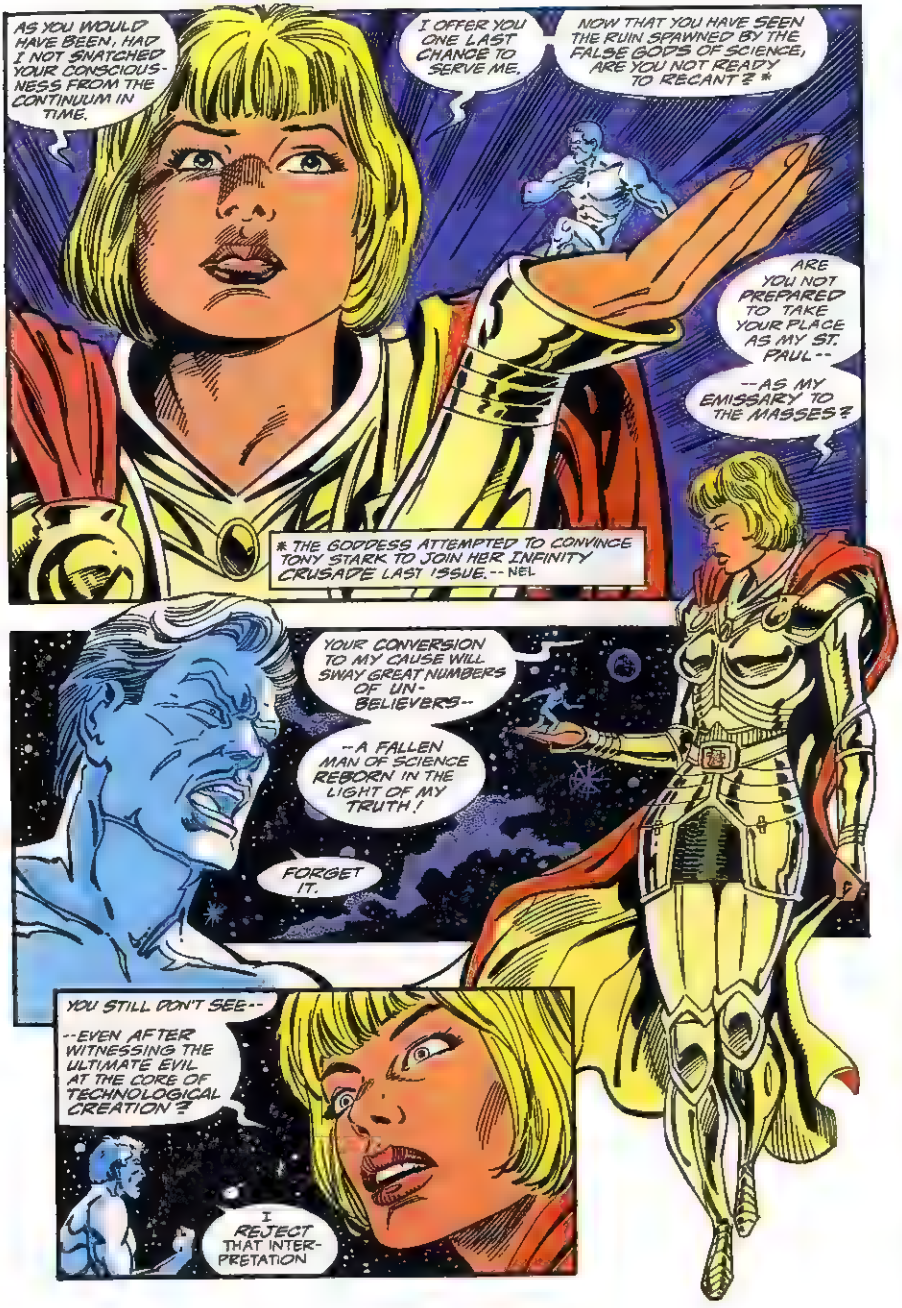
AS YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN, HAD I NOT SNATCHED YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE CONTINUUM IN TIME.
I OFFER YOU ONE LAST CHANCE TO SERVE ME.
NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN THE RUIN SPAWNED BY THE FALSE GODS OF SCIENCE, ARE YOU NOT READY TO RECANT? *
ARE YOU NOT PREPARED TO TAKE YOUR PLACE AS MY ST. PAUL--
--AS MY EMISSARY TO THE MASSES?
* THE GODDESS ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE TONY STARK TO JOIN HER INFINITY CRUSADE LAST ISSUE.-- NEL
YOUR CONVERSION TO MY CAUSE WILL SWAY GREAT NUMBERS OF UN-BELIEVERS--
--A FALLEN MAN OF SCIENCE REBORN IN THE LIGHT OF MY TRUTH!
FORGET IT.
YOU STILL DON'T SEE--
--EVEN AFTER WITNESSING THE ULTIMATE EVIL AT THE CORE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CREATION?
I REJECT THAT INTERPRETATION

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

MORT'S RETORT

Ever since I became an editor at Marvel, many people wonder what the heck I do here. Our fearless leader, Titanic Tom DeFalco, designated me "Rogue Editor" (no, I'm not doing a solo book of the X character)! What I'm doing here is a big secret for now ... but I'll tell you what I'm doing in my spare time at Marvel!

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS: This title sure gets odd reactions! This is an illustrated trade paperback in the Marvel-Thomas Nelson series, proving Christian comics aren't just for Christians anymore! It's an adaptation of C.S. Lewis's classic, supposedly written by a demon, for demons! You must check it out!

BIKER MICE FROM MARS: Sound nutty? You bet! Wait until you see this new TV series from Marvel Productions! Creator **Rick Ungar** wants our comic to be more hard core than the TV show! To help kick off our series, he and TV story editor **Bob Forward** have written the first three issues! **Rurik** (DARKHOLD) **Tyler** provides some rollickin' art. The first issue is out in September, along with the TV show.

HORROR REPRINTS: Since hitting Marvel I've been pining to do some horror comics so we're gonna test the waters with some intense reprints from the Marvel vaults!

PHILLIP MARLOWE: I'm overseeing a great series based on Raymond Chandler's original stories adapted by Byron Preiss Visual Studios. The artwork and storytelling is ground-breaking while sincere to the the source material.

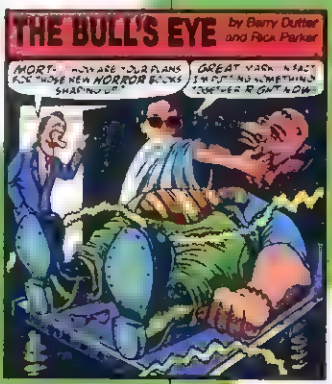
I'm also fooling around with a few licensed projects involving some stuff that is not only appeal to you the comics fan, but to non-comics readers' Yeah that's just in my spare time. The rea reason got hired at Marvel is even better' Oops I'm running out of space' I'll have to tell you the rest next time I get a chance to yap in the ol' bullpen!

Beast Regards,

Mort Todd

THE BULL'S EYE

by Barry Dutter and Rick Parker


MORT- HOW ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THOSE NEW HORROR BOOKS SHAPING UP?
GREAT YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT! I'M PUTTING SOMETHING TOGETHER RIGHT NOW!

Welcome to our first ever Bullpen Bulletins letters page! Because absolutely nothing interesting happened this week, we thought it would be as good a time as any to skinny-dip into the ol' mail-bag.

Dear Bullpen,

I find the current incarnation of the Bullpen Page much more sarcastic than the old one. It has the same irreverent tone as *Spy Magazine*. Why is this?

Dale Ladelle, Pottsville, AZ

We like to think that, like our comics, the Bullpen Page now has the attitude of the nineties!

Dear BP,

Who is stronger, Hulk or Superman?

Bob Forester, Crabapple Cove ME

Uh, we're not going to answer that question. We're trying for an intelligent exchange of ideas here.

Dear BPP,

Could Silver Surfer take Wolverine?

Len Tarrington, Fort Wayne, IN

Sorry, Len, but we promised not to answer any of those questions this time around. Next!

Dear Bulldogs,

Some say super hero comics are nothing more than adolescent male power fantasies. Others feel super heroes satisfy a basic human need for myths. In essence, super heroes are the modern equivalents of the gods of old. My question for you, then, is this: Could Sub-Mariner take Iron Man?

Sue Donner, Davenport, IA

You pose a valid question, Sue, one deserving of a serious answer! On land, Iron Man. In water, Sub-Mariner.

Dear BPP,

I love those cartoons you do of Tom DeFalco on the Bullpen Page and in "The Bossmen" in MARVEL AGE. You make him look like a big, fat slob! It's so funny because nobody could be that ignorant and run a company in real life!

Jack McCollough, Austin, TX

That's right! We try to make Tom look as bad as we can to make him look that much better in real life!

Dear BEEP-ers,

I really loved the Cool-O-Meter when you used to run it on the Bullpen Page. Will you be bringing it back?

Calvin Begley, Detroit, MI

Cool it, Cal. The O-Meter was just about the worst received feature we've ever run. Even worse than the Pro-Files of assistant editors!

Dear BPers,

I tried reading the Bullpen Borderline Blather, but I don't understand it! It seems like a collection of buzzwords from the pages of *Omni*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *Skeptical Inquirer*! What's the concept here?

Jerry Goleman, Cincinnati, OH

Well, Jerry, the Blather section is our way of exposing all of you Marveloids to the topical buzzwords of the turbulent times we all live in — kind of as a public service. Anyone who can correctly define or identify every item in the Blather is invited to write in with them and receive a coveted quasi-award!

Dear Bullheads,

First there were Marvelites. Now there are Marveloids. What do you think will be the next nickname for Marvelom Assembled?

Mark Balmaseda, Clearwater, FL

Our prediction: either Marvellions, Marvelecs, or Stinking Mutie Scums.

Well, Marveloids, that's it for this time 'round. If you have short questions, comments, or conundrums of a Bullpenic nature, send 'em to:

Bullpen Bulletins
Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **BARBIE FASHION #32:** Barbie is the life of everyone's party!
- ☐ **CONAN SAGA #77:** Tyrannians, werewolves and sea monsters ... oh my!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #56:** Infinity Crusade Crossover (ICO)! Doc spies on the Avengers!
- ☐ **DRAGON LINES #4 OF 4:** The Monkey King joins the **Spirit Boxer** to form the greatest team since Simon met Garfunkel!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #379:** Dr Doom commands the Thing to kill Ms. Marvel!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #13:** The clock winds down as the Midnight Massacre concludes!
- ☐ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #3: Cuchulain,** the Irish Wolfhound — he's off the leash and hot under the collar!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #295: Technovore** wants to scuttle Stark's space station!
- ☐ **LAWDOG #4:** Is Lawdog dying? Take him to the vet!
- ☐ **MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #33: Warpath, Gideon,** and **Bloodaxe!**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #63:** Introducing **Pang** — he's no instant breakfast drink!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #63:** The conclusion to the Hue battle!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #57:** Huntin' vampires with **Ghost Rider** and **Daredevil!**
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #63:** ICO! Surf frees his mind and wants to switch bodies!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN: CARNAGE:** Revealing the debut of venom's baby boy!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #2:** The Maximum Carnage comes to a mind-numbing conclusion!
- ☐ **THOR #465:** ICO! Goddess sends Thor on a crusade into space!
- ☐ **VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE #1 OF 3:** With the Punisher and an all-new villain, Pyre!
- ☐ **WARHEADS #14:** Final fog-bound issue!
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC #86:** Rogue rocks and rules!

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE OF THEMSELVES NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL.
THE TECHNOVORE WASN'T MALEVOLENT-- IT WAS A SAD, TORMENTED CREATURE--
--A VICTIM OF ITS OWN EXISTENCE--
-- AND OF ITS GREEDY, POWER-MAD CREATORS.
I KNOW THAT KIND OF EVIL WHEN I SEE IT.
AND I'M LOOKING AT IT NOW.
HERETIC!
BLASPHEMER!
YOU AND ALL OF YOUR KIND WILL BURN WHEN MY JIHAD BEGINS!
UNTIL THEN, I SENTENCE YOU TO DWELL IN YOUR CORRUPTED, CRIPPLED MORTAL SHELL --
--CONTEMPLATING YOUR IMMINENT DESTRUCTION!
IF SHE WASN'T SO INTOLERANT AND EVANGELICAL--
-I MIGHT EVEN HAVE TOLD HER-
-- HOW CLOSE SHE CAME TO BEING RIGHT.

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BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SEEN THE HORRORS OF TECHNOLOGY GONE SO WRONG--
--NEVER COME SO CLOSE TO DOUBTING THE WISDOM OF SCIENCE--
--AS I HAVE TODAY.
BUT TECHNOLOGY BUILDS AS WELL AS DESTROYS.
HEALS AS WELL AS KILLS.
I'M LIVING PROOF OF THAT
MY HANDS MAY BE WEAK,- THEY MAY TREMBLE--
BUT NOT SO LONG AGO, THEY WERE DEAD.
DESPITE THAT, I CAN'T DENY THE WARNINGS I'VE SEEN TODAY
AND THAT IT'S UP TO MEN AND WOMEN LIKE MYSELF TO INSURE THAT BLADE NEVER TASTES BLOOD.
SECOND, THE TECHNOVORE BLINDLY FOLLOWED ITS PROGRAMMED INSTINCTS ON A MINDLESS RAMPAGE THAT THREATENED BILLIONS-
--AND EVENTUALLY LED TO ITS OWN DESTRUCTION.
FIRST, THAT TECHNOLOGY IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD THAT HUMANITY COULD EASILY CUT ITS THROAT WITH-
I WONDER IF ANY OF US--HUMAN, GODDESS, OR OTHERWISE--ARE REALLY ALL THAT DIFFERENT...

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FREE MAGNETO #0!

In celebration of the X-Men's 30th Anniversary, Marvel is producing an exclusive limited edition **Magneto #0!**

Highlighted by a stunning foil-embossed cardstock cover and glossy interior pages, **Magneto #0** contains three classic Magneto stories - including his origin!

The bad news is that **Magneto #0** is not for sale at any price from Marvel!

The good news is that you can get one copy of **Magneto #0** free for each set that you buy from us of **X-Men #24, X-Force #26, X-Factor #94, Cable #5,** & **Wolverine #73.**

Even better, all orders postmarked or faxed by July 10th will get a 20% discount off this set which carries a $7.50 retail cover price!

Because of the extremely limited print run of **Magneto #0,** all orders received after July 10th will be strictly limited! So order now!!!

☆ **Magneto #0 Set** (Five issues plus Magneto #0) **7.50**

Each set includes one copy of X-Men #24, X-Force #26, X Factor #94, Cable #5, Wolverine #73, & one free Magneto #0.

Important these five X-titles & **Magneto #0** will not start shipping until July 27th. (See ordering instructions next page!) Also, all orders received postmarked or faxed after July 10th will be strictly limited to one Magneto #0 set per customer!

X-MEN 30

With the return of Magneto & Cable, these X-Men items are red hot!!!

Magneto Poster (Jim Lee art) $5
Sabretooth 1 (All new series - Limit 2) $3
Uncanny X-Men 281,282,284-299,301-303 $2
Uncanny X-Men 277-280,283, Ann 15-17 .. $3
Uncanny X-Men 300,304 (Hologram - Lim 2) $5
Wizard X-Men 30th Anniversary Special 1 $5
Wolverine 50,52,55-73 (Limit 1) $2
X-Factor 70-83,88-91,93,94 (Limit 2) $2
X-Factor 67-69,84-87, Ann 7,8 (Limit 1) . $3
X-Factor 92 (1st Hologram - Limit 1) . .. $5
X-Force 2-24,26 (Lim 2) $2 25 (Lim 2) $5
X-Force 1 (Gold Cover), Annual 1(Lim 2) . . $3
* **X-Force #1 Set** (All 5 issues - Limit 2) $15
Contains all 5 versions of X-Force #1 with all five cards!

X-Men 1(Deluxe), 2-16, Annual 1 (Lim 2) $3
X-Men 1(Wolv cover), 17-24 (Limit 2) .. $2
* **X-Men #1 Set** (All 5 versions Limit 2) $10
Contains all 5 versions of X-Men #1! Jim Lee art!
X-Men Adventures 1,2,6,8-10 (Limit 2) .. $3
X-Men Anniversary Magazine (48 pages) $3.95
X-Men Boxed Set & Rulebook (TSR) $18
X-Men Cards Series I(Pack) $2 II (Pack) $1.50
X-Men Giant Size 1(Origin X-Men 1992) .$3
X-Men Mutant Sourcebook (TSR) $15
X-Men Posterbook (Contains 32 posters) $5
X-Men Survival Guide (64 pages) $6.95
X-Men T-Shirt (Jim Lee art - Large or XL) $14.95
X-Men Unlimited 1,2 (64 pgs - Limit 2) $5

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All Orders By 7/10/93 Get a 20% Discount Off All Prices!

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Set - All 5 Collector Editions (1st Print) 7.95
Includes collectors edition of Action 667, Superman 76, Adventures Superman 500, 501 & Man of Steel 22!
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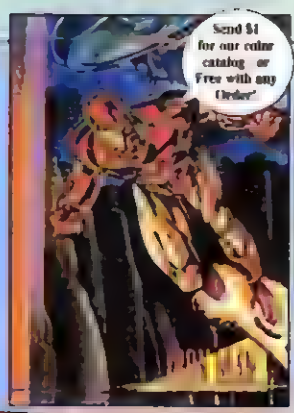
Wild Cats 1,3,4(Lim 2) $3 2(Lim 2) $7.50
X-O Trade (1st Print w/ Sourcebook - Limit 1) ..$10
Youngblood #[illegible] and 3,4 (Lim 1) $3
Youngblood Shiloette 1,2 (Limit 2) $2



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Wild Star 1 (Gold) $30 1,2 (Lim 2) $3
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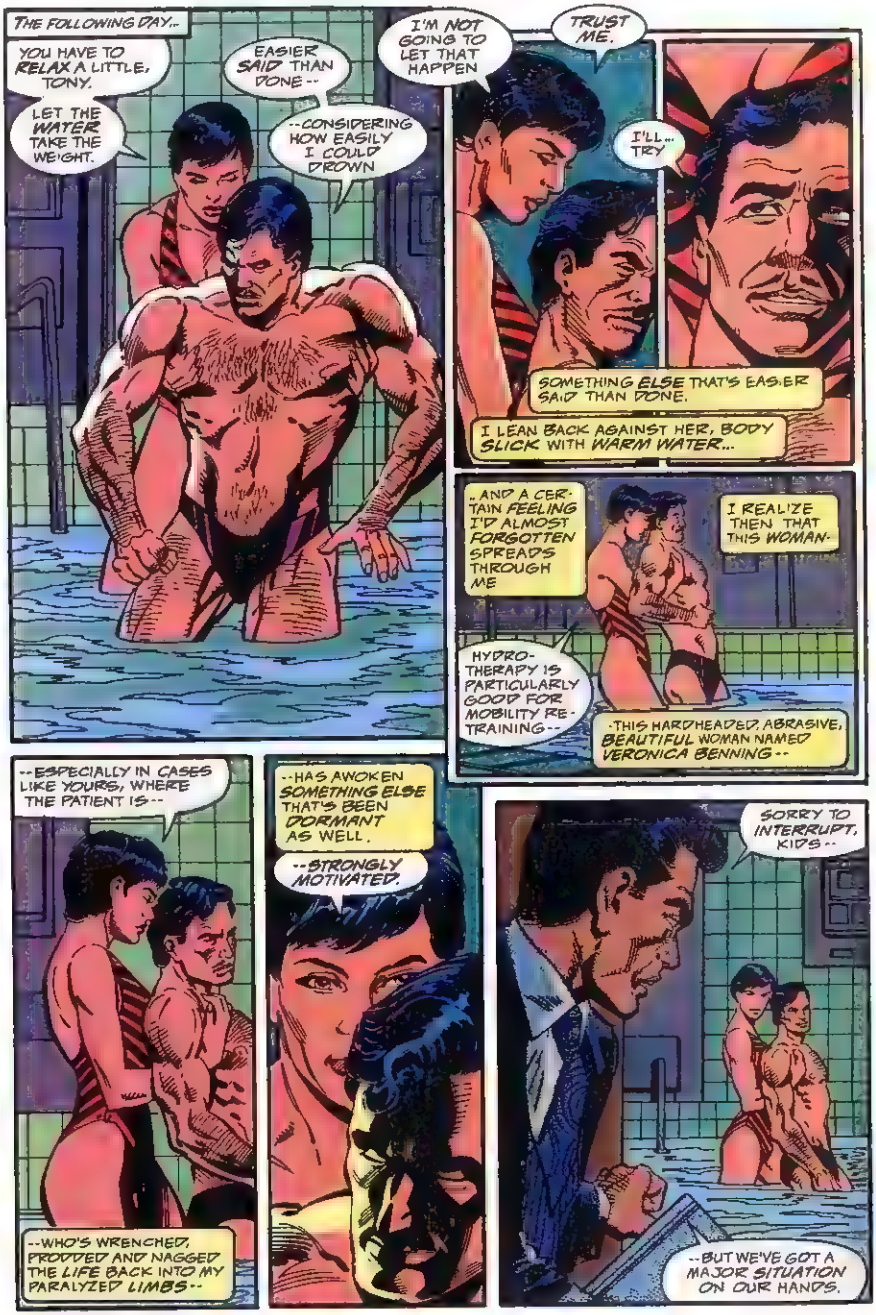
THE FOLLOWING DAY...
YOU HAVE TO RELAX A LITTLE, TONY.
LET THE WATER TAKE THE WEIGHT.
EASIER SAID THAN DONE--
--CONSIDERING HOW EASILY I COULD DROWN
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN
TRUST ME.
I'LL... TRY
SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
I LEAN BACK AGAINST HER, BODY SLICK WITH WARM WATER...
...AND A CERTAIN FEELING I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN SPREADS THROUGH ME
I REALIZE THEN THAT THIS WOMAN-
HYDROTHERAPY IS PARTICULARLY GOOD FOR MOBILITY RETRAINING--
-THIS HARDHEADED, ABRASIVE, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN NAMED VERONICA BENNING--
--ESPECIALLY IN CASES LIKE YOURS, WHERE THE PATIENT IS--
--WHO'S WRENCHED, PRODDED AND NAGGED THE LIFE BACK INTO MY PARALYZED LIMBS--
--HAS AWOKEN SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S BEEN DORMANT AS WELL.
--STRONGLY MOTIVATED.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, KIDS--
--BUT WE'VE GOT A MAJOR SITUATION ON OUR HANDS.

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SHORTLY, IN TONY STARK'S OFFICE...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
BACK WHEN JAMES RHODES WAS IN CHARGE, HE ORDERED S.E. TO GET ALL OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES OUT OF ANYTHING CONNECTED WITH NUCLEAR POWER.
STANE INTERNATIONAL WAS SIMPLY COMPLY-NG.. IN THE MOST COST-EEEECTIVE WAY THEY COULD FIND
BY SELLING ALL OF ITS NUCLEAR MATERIALS--
--INCLUDING WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM--
-- TO A KNOWN FRONT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION--
--A.I.M.?! *
WE'RE GOING TO KILL THIS DEAL, FELIX; I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES.
I WON'T HAVE S.E. SELLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY TO TERRORISTS.
THAT'S A TALL ORDER--
--SINCE THE FIRST SHIPMENT ARRIVED IN BOCA CALIENTE * LAST WEEK.
* ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS. --NEL
* A.I.M.'S ISLAND BASE OF OPERATIONS. --NEL

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PRINTED CIRCUITS

NELSON YOMTOV. . .editor JOHN LEWANDOWSKI. . .assistant editor
c/o Marvel Comics Group — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, NY 10016
Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name & address, though we will withhold that information on request.

Dear Iron Men,

"Mixed Reactions," issue #292, seems to have established that Tony Stark's back for good. I was very sorry to see Rhodey go, but I realize the necessity of such a move on your part. It's the same type of situation you had with Eric Masterson in the Thor title. Rhodey had just gotten too big and developed too much to keep him around as a supporting character. Also, the "War Machine" armor gained a huge fan following (myself included). But, at the same time, many of your readers wanted Tony Stark and the red and gold look for the armor. So, how does one resolve such a dilemma? By letting Rhodey leave in a dignified manner (I'm glad you didn't use the old, clichéd "I need some time to myself" routine), and by placing him in the AVENGERS WEST COAST where all his fans can catch him in the War Machine armor.

On to other matters. I loved Nick Fury's comment about Tony's supposed death being "...some kinda tax dodge." It's typical for Nick to hide his relief behind a gruff, nonchalant comment, like that.

As for Tony himself. It seems he is relying a bit too much on a certain remote-controlled suit of armor. Unable to cope with his paralysis, or even a gradual recovery, he is turning to the escape offered by his telepresence unit. Not good. This could seriously impede his recovery. After all, "if you don't use it, you lose it." This desire to escape his currently undesirable condition rather than try to deal with it is a very natural and realistic reaction on Tony's part. After all, he's not exactly used to sitting around and not taking action. It also says a lot for Len Kaminski's skill as a writer. To portray Tony as totally optimistic and free of bitterness and frustration would have been very unrealistic in light of all the man's been through recently.

One last thing. I do not buy into the fact that Len introduced Morgan Stark just to kill him off right away. Does anyone believe he's dead? Naaaaaaaahhhhh!!!

Rick Concepcion
An Iron Man Fan
53 W. 22nd St. Apt. 1
Hialeah, FL 33010

To say that Tony is turning to the escape offered by his telepresence unit is a bit off the mark, Rick. As you've seen by now, Tony still puts himself in immense personal danger every time he activates the remote control unit. His recovery is slow, but well, let's just say it's often his own stubbornness that impedes his progress.

Dear Nel and Co.

The best thing to come out of the pages of IRON MAN #292 was the arrival of Veronica Benning. Tough, smart and stunning, she's likely to whip Tony Stark into shape and then some. Don't let her fade on us.

Jan C. Childress
82 Perrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Veronica will be around for some time, Jan. After all, Tony's not totally recovered yet and is still in need of her special talents. Besides, super-powered villains, she's one of the few people who can keep Tony on his toes. (Or hopes to get him on them. Ah, you know what we mean.)

Nel,

IRON MAN #292 was perhaps the finest Shellhead saga I've read in months. The Armored Avenger himself didn't even appear till page 17 and the villain — at least the one in the fancy getup — didn't rear *his* ugly head for *another* couple of pages! Instead of all the high-tech horseplay with which he could have filled the issue, Len gave us scenes between Tony and his doctors, Tony and Marcy, Tony and malevolent Morgan. He gave us Veronica, the curvy, but nervy physical therapist and the dastardly but doomed Osamu Moroboshi, along with whoever was on the other end of that fatal phone call. Last but not least, let us not forget the Berserker who acted suitably...well, berserk.

Also appreciated, particularly by a whodunit fan like me, was the undercurrent of mystery. Obviously, the Berserker is just the frothing front man for someone just as deadly, just as dangerous, but not quite as willing — at least not yet — to put his own nefarious neck on the line. Who is this villain with the king-sized vendetta against Tony and his billion dollar baby, Stark Enterprises?

In case you haven't heard, there's a brand-new IRON MAN fanzine available called, appropriately enough, IRON FAN. At the risk of sounding like a shill for Bill (Bill Egan, who's the editor), interested readers can write to him at 10341 Leola Court #1, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Stuart Brynien
2181 Brown St.
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Thanks for the kind review, Stu. And now that you know who that villain with a vendetta was, what do you think? Thanks also for mentioning IRON FAN. We just received a copy of it and you can look for our review of it in future letters pages.

Dear Printed Circuits,

It sure is great to have two "Iron Men" around. Needless to say, this concept makes life quite interesting for IRON MAN fans. As I've seen in issue #292, Tony Stark still has a way to go in order to make a full comeback.

But what about his friendship with James Rhodes? I hope that they can become friends again. It would be great if Jim returns to Stark Enterprises and fights with Tony side-by-side because I have the strange feeling that Spymaster and his gang will be coming back soon in order to attack Stark Enterprises to try and defeat Iron Man once again. Those guys are tough and they won't give up until they die trying.

One of these days, I hope that Iron Man will become a movie. If a movie can be made of Spider-Man, then why not Iron Man? Without a doubt, the actor Larry Fishburne would be the ideal choice to play Jim Rhodes! Fishburne looks just like Jim!

Anthony Kirtson, Jr.
(Address withheld by request)

NEXT ISSUE: Iron Man has to clean up a major problem caused during Tony's absence from Stark Enterprises. Seems as if some rather nasty nuclear materials ended up in the hands of AIM...quite legally, by the way. It's Iron Man blasting it out against AIM, Modam and from the pages of the X-Men, Omega Red! Be here, where the heat doesn't let up in "Tradewar!" See ya in 30!

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AN INSIDE LOOK AT THIS MONTH'S HOTTEST COMICS!

UNCANNY X-MEN #304

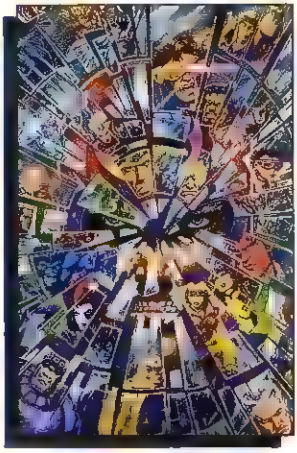
MAGNETO RETURNS, but not for good. At least, not for the good of humanity. And, not for the good of Professor X as both dreamers for a mutant destiny clash in an epic battle. It's by Scott Lobdell and John Romita Jr. And, while you're at it, don't miss a startling change in the loyalties of one of the greatest X-Men ever.

AVENGERS #366

The Kree return for the blood of their slain. And it's up to the Avengers to stop them from dropping a Nega-Bomb on Earth. By the creative team Bob Harras, Steve Epting and Tom Palmer! Gold embossed foil cover! 64 Pages!

HUNT FOR MAGNETO CONTEST

It's the greatest contest of all! Look for game pieces in select Marvel Comics and win everything from an exclusive trading card set to the X-Men arcade game to a complete set of **Uncanny X-Men #1, X-Men#1, X-Factor #1, New Mutants #1, X-Factor #1, Wolverine #1, Cable #1, Avengers #1, Captain America #1 and West Coast Avengers #1.**



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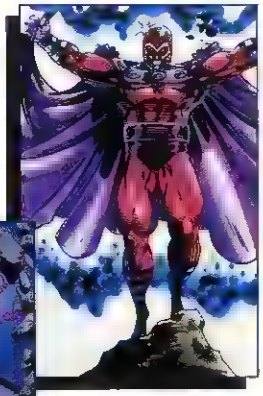

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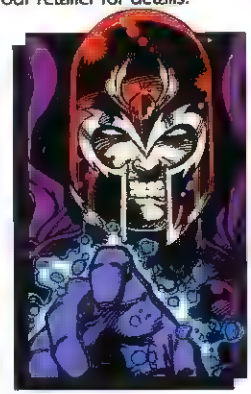

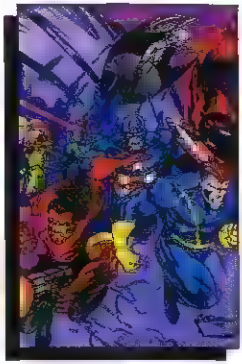

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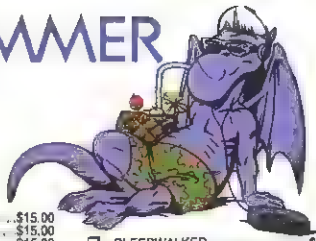

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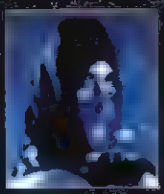
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THAT PUTS HIM IN A CLASS WITH THE HULK, MOONDRAGON.

ALL THAT POWER AND SUPPOSEDLY NO MEMORY OF HOW HE CAME BY IT.

I TELL YOU, LADIES--

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LOOKS LIKE YOUR BOYFRIEND AIN'T INTERESTED IN OUR EXPERIMENTS.

ADAM'S LEAVING?

SOMETHING MUST BE BOTHERING HIM.

WARLOCK HAS MORE AT STAKE IN FINDING OUT ABOUT MAXAM THAN ANYONE.

DIDN'T I SEE MAX STANDING OVER ADAM'S APPARENTLY DEAD BODY IN A TIME VISION?

YOU'D THINK THWARTING THAT EVENT FROM OCCURRING WOULD BE HIS MAIN PRIORITY.

AND BY THE WAY, PIP...

...ADAM'S NOT MY BOY-FRIEND!

WHATEVER YOU SAY...

IF I WERE YOU I WOULDN'T KILL THE TROLL... YOU MIGHT NEED HIM.

I HAVE TO TAKE A BREAK.

HEADACHE FROM LINKING UP TOO LONG TELEPATHICALLY WITH THESE COMPUTERS.

GO. WE'LL HANDLE IT FROM HERE.

SO OL' LEAN AN' MEAN IS GIVIN' THE ORDERS AROUND HERE, AGAIN?

FOR THE MOMENT. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT SHORTY?

DON'T THOSE TWO EVER LET UP?

PRETTY BALD LADY GO LIE DOWN AND FEEL BETTER, OKAY?

SURE.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

DRAX WORRYING ABOUT ME HAVING A HEADACHE...?

JUST TOO WEIRD.

HEATHER, OL' GAL, HOW DO YOU GET YOURSELF INTO THESE FIXES?

NOW YOU'RE TEAMED UP WITH AN ASTRAL HEATHCLIFF, TWO WEIRD BICKERING EXTRATERRESTRIALS AND DRAX THE DESTROYER!

IF YOU HAD A LICK OF SENSE YOU'D PUT BIG DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THEM!

ESPECIALLY DRAX.

TRUE, THE GUY WAS YOUR FATHER IN HIS PAST LIFE, BUT THAT COUNTS FOR LITTLE.

AFTER ALL, IT WAS YOU WHO KILLED HIM A SECOND TIME AROUND WITH AN EXTENDED MIND BLAST.

NOW THE BEHEMOTH HAS RETURNED WITH THE INTELLECT OF A CHILD AND MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.

BEEN LUCKY SO FAR THAT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HIS PAST.

BUT THAT KIND OF LUCK HAS A HABIT OF GOING SOUTH.

YOU CAN BET EVEN MONEY THAT SOONER OR LATER IT'LL ALL COME BACK TO DRAX.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHEN THAT DAY DAWNS?

AND AM I READY TO FACE OFF WITH A VENGEFUL POWERHOUSE THAT I'M ONCE AGAIN LEARNING TO CARE FOR?

WITH THE POWER GEM BACKING HIM UP THERE'D BE NO HOLDING HIM AT BAY.

THERE'D BE ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH HIM...

I'D HAVE TO KILL HIM... AGAIN.

MAKE IT BURN, BABY!

POUR IT ON, DRAX!

PIN OL' MAX LIKE A BUG!

THE NAME'S MAXAM...

WHAT-EVER.

PIP! YOU'RE THROWING OFF THE TEST!

PIPE DOWN!

GIVE IT A BREAK, SLICK.

YA ACT LIKE IT'S ILLEGAL TO HAVE ANY FUN AROUND HERE!

GETTIN' SO A FELLA AIN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO...

NO SMOKING IN THE LAB!

...BREATHE?

NOW YA DID IT!!

YA HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THAT STOGIE COST ME?!

LESS THAN A NICKEL I'D WAGER.

BESIDES, YOU'D BEEN WARNED EARLIER, AND I--

WHAT'S THE??

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LONG WALK OFF A SHORT PIER, TOOTS?

I AM THE GODDESS. GREETINGS, GAMORA.

DO NOT BE ALARMED. I COME WITH A LOVING HEART.

C'MON, DRAX!
YOU CAN TAKE THIS CREEP!
YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES LITTLE MAN...
IF GAMORA DOESN'T CALL YOU OFF, I MIGHT HAVE TO...
OOOPS! I FORGOT!
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE GREENIE'S SPACING OUT!
MAYBE SHE'S HAVIN' ANOTHER OF THOSE TIME VISIONS.
I WANT A REMATCH!
I WAS DISTRACTED.
GREAT GOIN' DRAX OL' BOY!
SURE WISH I HAD SOME DOUGH ON THAT LITTLE MATCH!
GOTCHA!
MAX, HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE WAGER ON THE NEXT BOUT?
SURE. I BET YOU CAN'T GET TO THE DOOR BEFORE I WRING YOUR SCRAWNY LITTLE NECK!
AND DON'T TRY TO--
HUH?
SPEAKING OF DOORS, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GOT ME.

YES.

STEP FORTH AND BE COUNTED, MY CHOSEN ONE.

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE, DOLL!

DON'T GO AWAY MAD!

I WAS JUST KIDDIN' BEFORE ABOUT THE LONG WALK!

I TAKE IT THIS IS A RATHER UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE, EVEN FOR YOU FOLKS?

DRAX DON'T REMEMBER IT EVER HAPPENING BEFORE.

AND IT'S WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

TIME TO CALL IN THE MASTERS OF THE MACABRE.

ADAM!

MOON-DRAGON!

WE GOT US SOME BIG TROUBLE!

MOONDRAGON, YOU'RE... NOT HERE?!

YOU DON'T FIGURE...

NAW!

DON'T EVEN THINK IT!

ADAM!

GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR AND OUT HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

THERE'S AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS SITUATION COMING DOWN AND--

TERRIFIC.

HE'S GONE TOO.

AND HE TOOK THE ROOM WITH HIM.

WHAT THE DEUCE IS GOIN' ON HERE?!

I'D APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME KNOW WHEN YOU FIGURE IT OUT.

JUST A LITTLE INTERIOR DECORATIN' MAX.

ADAM ALWAYS LIKED THE SPARSE LOOK IN HIS QUARTERS.

MAJOR PROBLEM TIME, PIP ME LAD. ALL THE WATCH'S TOP BRASS HAVE EVAPORATED.

NATURE ABHORS A POWER VACUUM!

FORTUNATELY THIS SITUATION'S GOT A NATURAL CORK PREPARED TO FILL THE GAP.

PAST YEAR I'VE HUNG OUT WITH ENOUGH OF THESE SUPER-HERO TYPES TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE TOP DOG IN THEIR KENNEL.

FIGURE'D IT'D ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME 'FORE THE AVENGERS OR SOMEBODY ENLISTED ME TO LEAD 'EM.

LUCKILY, I'VE BEEN PREPARIN' FOR THIS MOMENT.

WORLD, GET READY FOR A NEW AND IMPROVED PIP THE TROLL!

SAY WHAT?

WHERE'S HE OFF TO AND WHAT'S HE UP TO?

DON'T KNOW. THAT LIL' PIP'S ROOM.

AND NOW, ON THIS STAGE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, MONSTER ISLAND REVUES IS PROUD TO PRESENT--

--THE AMAZING, UTTERLY STUPENDOUS, FEARLESS, CUNNING AND TOTALLY DEPENDABLE...

PIP MAN!

NEAT COSTUME.

IS THAT SMELL COMING FROM PIP OR HIS ROOM?

FOLKS, SAY HELLO TO THE NEW LEADER OF THE INFINITY WATCH!

WHY LIL' PIP NEW LEADER!?

WHY DRAX NOT THE BOSS?

BECAUSE YER BRAIN DAMAGED, YA IDJIT!!

OH, YEAH--I FORGOT.

THAT, DEAR TROLL, DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT YOU AUTOMATICALLY BECOME HEAD HONCHO.

IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD, THE POST REQUIRES A LITTLE SOMETHING CALLED LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

THOUGH NOT AN ACTUAL MEMBER OF THE WATCH, I--

YOU?

YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YER OWN MONIKER!

WE STARTED CALLING YOU MAXAM 'CAUSE IT WAS ETCHED ON YER BELT! YA COULD'VE AS EASILY ENDED UP BEING CALLED LEVI STRAUSS!

HEY! WHY DON'T WE PUT IT TO A VOTE?!

I'LL GO ALONG WITH THAT IDEA.

WORKS FOR ME.

I VOTE FOR MYSELF!

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO YOU TO BREAK THE TIE, DRAX.

NO VOTING FOR YOURSELF.

WHY NOT?

BRAIN DAMAGE, REMEMBER?

OH, YEAH...

WELL, DRAX SHOULDN'T HAVE A *HARD TIME* DECIDING WHICH OF US WOULD MAKE THE *STRONGEST* LEADER.

AND I'M NOT TALKING BODY ODOR STRONG.

YEAH... WHAT IS THAT *SMELL*?

WAIT ONE DARN *MINUTE!*

DRAX--YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE *STUPID* ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THIS *CON JOB*, ARE YOU?!

I'M *NOT*?

WASN'T IT JUST *YESTERDAY* THAT MAX *PUNCHED* YOU A QUARTER MILE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN?

MISTAKES HAPPEN...

THAT'S RIGHT-- *HE DID!*

HE *DID*?

DRAX VOTES FOR LIL' *PIP*.

THAT'S *PIP*.

WHATEVER.

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED! THE *INMATES* ARE RUNNING THE *ASYLUM!*

TROUBLE IS, MAX, SPLITTING THIS SCENE *ISN'T* AN *OPTION* FOR YOU.

DESPITE WHAT PIP THINKS, YOU REALLY *DON'T* HAVE ANY *MEMORY* OF YOUR *PAST*.

THESE TWO *LUNATICS* ARE YOUR ONLY TENTATIVE LINK TO THE *REAL* WORLD.

GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GO WITH THE FLOW AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.

OKAY, MR BIG CHEESE LEADER, WHAT'S THE GAME PLAN?

YOU TALKING TO ME?

NO, ME, DUMMY.

FIRST THING WE NEED IS HARD INTELLIGENCE ABOUT WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN...

HOW DO WE GET THAT?

FROM COMPUTERS AND OTHER MACHINES.

HIM DUMMY? THOUGHT I WAS THE DUMMY?

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THESE GIZMOS?

NO.

DRAX?

GET REAL.

GIVEN TIME I COULD PROBABLY FIGURE THEM OUT, BUT--

TIME'S OBVIOUSLY A LUXURY WE CAN'T PRESENTLY AFFORD.

HAVE TO SCROUNGE UP SOME HIGH CLASS TALENT, FAST.

AND I KNOW JUST THE EGGHEAD TO FILL THE BILL!

BACK IN A MOMENT.

SHOULD I BE WORRIED?

PROBABLY.

WHO YOU FIGURE HE WENT TO FETCH?

ALF, MAYBE?

SORRY I ASKED.

HE'S BACK!

AND HE'S GOT WITH HIM...

...MR. FANTASTIC!

THAT'S REED RICHARDS OF THE LEGENDARY FANTASTIC FOUR!

WHERE THE DEVIL AM I?

OH! WARLOCK'S SIDEKICK, PIP!

WHAT'S WITH YOU? LOSE A BET OR SOMETHING?

NEVER MIND THAT!

MAX, HOW'D YOU KNOW THIS DUDE IS MR. FANTASTIC?

NEAT! CAN I GET ONE OF THESE SOMEWHERE?

I'M NOT SURE HOW I CAME TO KNOW HIS NAME.

JUST SORT OF PULLED IT OUT OF THE AIR!

HOW CON-VENIENT.

I TOLD YOU MAXAM'S MEMORY LOSS WAS A SCAM! HERE'S PROOF!

THIS IS ALL VERY INTER-ESTING, BUT YOU ABDUCTED ME WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME IM-PORTANT BUSINESS.

SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'LL BE GOING NOW.

MAX! DRAX! PERSUADE!

NOT SO FAST, PROFESSOR.

YEAH, WARLOCK, GAMORA, AND MOONDRAGON MYSTERIOUSLY TOOK A POWDER ON US.

WE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE.

WOW!!!

THEY'VE DIS-APPEARED!?

DID ANY OF THEM PASS THROUGH A MYSTERIOUS DIMENSIONAL PORTAL?

YEAH! GAMORA DID! SEE? I TOLD YOU GUYS THIS DUDE WAS GOOD!

SHOW ME WHERE THIS OC-CURRED!

FASCI-NATING.

THESE ARE THE SAME WAVELENGTHS I PICKED UP AT THE SIGHT OF MY WIFE'S DISAPPEARANCE.

SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THESE ENERGY SIGNATURES. PERHAPS IF I CROSS CHECK THEM...?

WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED IN AND TO ADAM'S ROOM!

SOME OF THE SAME READINGS REGISTERED AT THE OTHER SITES ARE PRESENT HERE.

BUT OTHER FORCES WERE ALSO AT WORK.

I BELIEVE MYSTICAL ENERGIES WERE RECENTLY RELEASED AT THIS LOCALE.

NO OFFENSE, DOC, --

--BUT THE GUY'S NAME IS WARLOCK AFTER ALL.

WHAT IS THIS GLOBE?

WHO KNOWS?

THE BOSS CLAIMS ETERNITY GAVE IT TO HIM WHILE ADAM WAS IN A COMA.

DO YOU BUY THAT?

NO. BUT ONLY A FOOL ARGUES WITH A GUY WHO CAN STEAL YOUR SOUL.

HOW DOES IT OPERATE?

GOT ME.

I DON'T SEE ANY SWITCHES OR CONTROLS, BUT THEN I WOULDN'T, WOULD I?

ARRGH!

YEOW!

PRETTY.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES. SERVES ME RIGHT FOR TINKERING WITH SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

DIDN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING OTHER THAN SCRAMBLING MY OWN WITS.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE ORB!

HOW?

WHO PRETTY LADY?

POSSIBLY THE ARCHITECT OF ALL OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS.

SOME OF THE OBJECTS ORBITING HER LOOK LIKE COSMIC CUBES.

NOW I KNOW WHY THOSE ENERGY READINGS LOOKED SO FAMILIAR.

WHY AREN'T I FALLING?

MYSTICAL STUFF. GO FIGURE.

THE SCANNER'S NOT PICKING UP ANYTHING FROM THE WOMAN OR THOSE OBJECTS.

EXACTLY. BUT A COMPUTER SEARCH HAS CONFIRMED ONE SUSPICION FOR ME.

BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT REAL--JUST IMAGES?

SOME OF THE READINGS I PICKED UP EARLIER MATCH THE ENERGY SIGNATURES OF THE COSMIC CUBES THE MAGUS WAS UTILIZING A FEW MONTHS BACK.*

AT THE TIME WE THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN DESTROYED DURING OUR FINAL BATTLE WITH THAT VILLAIN!

*INFINITY WAR #1-6.

GUESS WE KNOW BETTER THAN THAT NOW.

THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS APPEAR TO BE OPERATING PRIMARILY ON A TELEPATHIC LEVEL.

I TAKE IT YOUR PARTNER, GAMORA, PASSED THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL OF HER OWN VOLITION?

VOLE WHAT?

SHE WENT WILLINGLY?

YEAH. LOOKED THAT WAY.

THEN WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE MISSING PERSONS WERE TELEPATHICALLY ENTRANCED AND ABDUCTED.

WE MUST FURTHER EXPECT THAT THEY CURRENTLY ARE MENTALLY ENSLAVED BY THE WOMAN IN THE GLOBE, WHOEVER SHE MIGHT BE.

UNDER YOUR COMMAND?

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

NOW, THE FOUR OF US, UNDER MY COMMAND, WILL SOLVE THIS COSMIC MYSTERY.

BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

NOTHING BENEVOLENT, I'D WAGER.

DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF GUY WHO KIDS AROUND??

WELL, QUITE FRANKLY, YES.

HE'S RIGHT.

DRAX ALWAYS THINK LIL' PIP VERY FUNNY.

OF COURSE NOT. SHE'S OBVIOUSLY A BAD ONE.

NOW WHAT?

THIS IS BEGINNIN' TO LOOK AN AWFUL LOT LIKE A MUTINY TO ME!

AND IT'S NOT HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHO THE CHIEF MUTINEER IS!

WAIT A MINUTE, PIP!

ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH TRAITOROUS SCUM!

WHAT NOW?

APPEARS THE LITTLE FELLOW IS TAKING THE OFFENSIVE!

MEANING?

DIE! YOU BENEDICT ARNOLD!

WE ALL BETTER WATCH OUR BACKS!

PIP! WILL YOU SETTLE DOWN AND LISTEN TO REASON!

HUH?

NEVER!

GREAT LEADERS NEVER LISTEN TO ANY-THING!

MARVELOUS! HE'S GONE COMPLETELY AROUND THE BEND!

OH BOY, A FIGHT!

GOTCHA NOW, YOU JUDAS!

NO, I GOT YOU, MY HOMICIDAL LITTLE MIDGET!

ET TU, MAX...?

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, MAXAM.

MY PLEASURE. BELIEVE ME.

I THINK THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO TAKE ANOTHER VOTE.

SEEMS TO ME THE BEST CHANCE TO RESOLVE OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS IS BY HAVING PROF. RICHARDS LEAD US.

I STILL VOTE FOR MYSELF.

DRAX, WHO DO YOU VOTE FOR?

YOU ACTUALLY VOTED THIS LUNATIC INTO OFFICE?

YOU EVER HIT, KICK, OR PUNCH DRAX?

I WOULD NEVER THINK OF DOING ANYTHING SO FOOLISH.

SMART DUDE.

DRAX VOTES FOR STRETCHY GUY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, PIP? PLANNING ON PLAYING ALONG?

DO I GET TO KEEP MY UNIFORM?

I THINK IT BETTER FOR EVERYONE IF IT WERE IMMEDIATELY BURNT.

NO OUTFIT, NO COOPERATION.

HIS TELEPORTATION POWER WILL PROBABLY COME IN HANDY.

THEN THE UNIFORM STAYS. JUST STAY DOWNWIND FROM ME, OKAY?

NEAT! PIP DRESSES REALLY COOL!

WHAT NOW, HOTSHOT?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE AVENGERS' MANSION WHEN I WAS UNCEREMONIOUSLY DETOURED.

WITH COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS INVOLVED I THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME HEAVY BACK-UP ON THIS ONE.

THEN LET'S ALL JOIN HANDS.

DON'T WORRY; WE'RE NOT PREPARING FOR A SEANCE.

YA GOT TA MAKE CONTACT TA RIDE ON THE PIP EXPRESS!

ALL ABOARD! NEXT STOP WILL BE...

"...INSIDE AVENGERS MANSION!"

QUITE A GATHERING!

THING IS, THOUGH, LAST TIME I SAW MOST OF THESE FOLKS, THEY WE'RE TRYING TO KILL US!

FIGURES. PIP, WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN US INTO THIS TIME?

FIND OUT NEXT WEEK IN:
The INFINITY CRUSADE #2!

THEN THE FOLLOWING WEEK
CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE IN:
The WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2!

THEN JOIN US BACK HERE AT:
WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #19

TWO WEEKS LATER FOR:
TRUE BELIEVERS!

Editor—Craig Anderson **Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust**
MARVEL COMICS GROUP—387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York—10016

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Craig and Lynaire,

Oh, controversy! I see my request to return Warlock to his philosophical origins and bring back the extremely moral character that once existed has generated a response in the letter column of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #14. Since you tend to print letters that generally reflect the mood of the electorate, I assume that my request was viewed negatively by the majority of fans who wrote in. Too bad. Those Warlock reprints contained some of the best character development I have ever read in a comic, as Adam struggled with each of his decisions and how they might affect his course towards becoming the Magus.

But now with the revelation that Adam expelled both good and evil from himself once he obtained the Infinity Gauntlet (which I didn't know at the time I wrote my letter), I see things will never be quite the same. But hopefully, at least you understand what I was trying to get at and why I wanted Warlock changed. With the new WARLOCK CHRONICLES focusing closely on Adam himself, perhaps some of the intense exploration of Adam's character that I desire can take place. While I like seeing a character like Warlock ponder the moral implications of his actions the way he used to, perhaps the occasional musings added to this heavy duty exploration of his character will make everyone happy, which of course is the Marvel way. No sooner does controversy flair up that a compromise is made to please all (or mostly all). Welcome to Clinton's America.

James Evans
6621 Sutton Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

Glad you're enjoying the book, James. As you've seen by now, the deep exploration of what makes up Adam Warlock is an ever-learning experience—an experience that we're more than happy to help bring you! And we'll be able to bring you even more exploits of the Soul Gem in May, when Adam's new book, THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES, premiers! Keep watching for it!

Dear Marvel,

Yes, yes, yes! Another fine performance by Gamora! Took out the whole lot of U.N. troops by herself—tanks and all! I just absolutely loved WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #14! Gamora rules! Give her a Limited Series. I just need a book that says "Gamora" in big letters across the of top of a shiny green cover! Just give me that before I die!

Anyway, I'm glad Adam's finally going to come out of the coma he's been in. You would think you guys could give him a break for at least a year or two! He gets resurrected only to never get a chance to enjoy the spotlight for fourteen straight issues! Come on, guys! And with the rumors I've been hearing about what THE INFINITY CRUSADE is going to do to him, it's just not fair to the poor guy. But, it has allowed you to put the great Gamora into the spotlight quite a number of times, along with Drax, Moondragon and Pip, so that's cool. You rarely see a new comic do that.

I do have another reason for writing, though. I've been seeing a lot of clamoring for a Thanos ongoing series, and I'm afraid that I, too, must jump on that bandwagon. Marvel has always had the best villains, and with you guys giving Venom and Doom a chance to shine, and DC giving Eclipso his shot, it's only fair to let Thanos have his moment in the sun. Put him in, Coach DeFalco! He's ready to play today!

Josh Hill
55 Cardinal Road
Hyde Park, NY
12538

You're not alone in your request for a Thanos Limited Series, Josh. After the INFINITY CRUSADE is over this summer...well, you never know what a certain purple-skinned Titan would do.

Dear Craig and Company,

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH constantly amazes me. Every issue shows new insight to its members. Few comic books today give us such in-depth glimpses into its characters. A book like this is rare. Excellent writing and beautiful artwork have become the norm for this title, but they are never taken for granted (at least by me.) As some people have mentioned before, almost anyone can write a slam-bang action story with senseless violence, but stories with meaning are far and few between.

But enough flattery. Now we are introduced to two new players in the cosmic game, Maya and Count Abyss. Their roles are...? (I'm not even hazarding a guess.) And what about Adam's catatonic state?

Well, I guess we'll all have to wait until next month. Boy! Sometimes thirty days can seem like a long time.

Peace

Ishmael Bogin
(Address withheld by request)

As you've seen by now, Ishmael, Adam's no longer catatonic and Count Abyss is definitely up to no good.

Dear Watchwords,

I've just finished WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #14 and all I can say is wow! I don't believe the way Gamora took out that army unarmed! I used to think she was in Spider-Man's strength class, but after looking at page 18, I think differently.

Since then you have done the Drax vs. Hulk fight. The next fight I would like to see is Gamora vs. She-Hulk in an all-out rumble. We have never seen Gamora's strength put to the test and besides She-Hulk is one of the toughest women in the Marvel Universe.

Mike Moore
(Address withheld upon request)

How about limited series for Pip or Thanos? They're two great characters who deserve to be in the spotlight by themselves. What do you think?

NEXT ISSUE: Pip plots his revenge on the gathered super heroes! The Mole Man confronts Warlock! More on the mystery of Maxam! Thanos prepares to confront the Goddess! The Silver Surfer makes a startling discovery! All this and much, much more in this incredible INFINITY CRUSADE crossover! Be here in thirty!

MARVEL COMICS
FEATURING: CELTIC MYSTIC KYLLIAN!
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
DR. STRANGE
SORCERER SUPREME
DARES TO CHALLENGE--
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HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

From HERE... To THERE... To ETERNITY!

IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE MAN WHO WAS, TILL RECENTLY, EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME...
BENEATH THE GRIM GAZE OF THANOS, WE HAVE RUN THE INFINITY GAUNTLET...
AGAINST THE VILE POWER OF THE MAGUS, WE HAVE FOUGHT THE INFINITY WAR...
BOTH TIMES, THE FORCES OF GOOD HAVE EMERGED VICTORIOUS.
AND STILL I SENSE AN INCOMPLETE-NESS.
THE THIRD SIDE OF DESTINY'S TRIANGLE HAS YET TO BE DRAWN.
THE CURTAIN ON THE THIRD AND FINAL ACT WAITS TO BE RAISED. *
* NOTE: THIS TALE PRECEDES THE EVENTS OF INFINITY CRUSADE # 1. --MIKE
ROY THOMAS -- WRITER
FRANK LOPEZ -- LAYOUTS
GEOF ISHERWOOD -- FINISHES
PAT BROSSEAU -- LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS -- COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ -- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO -- EDITOR IN FINITY

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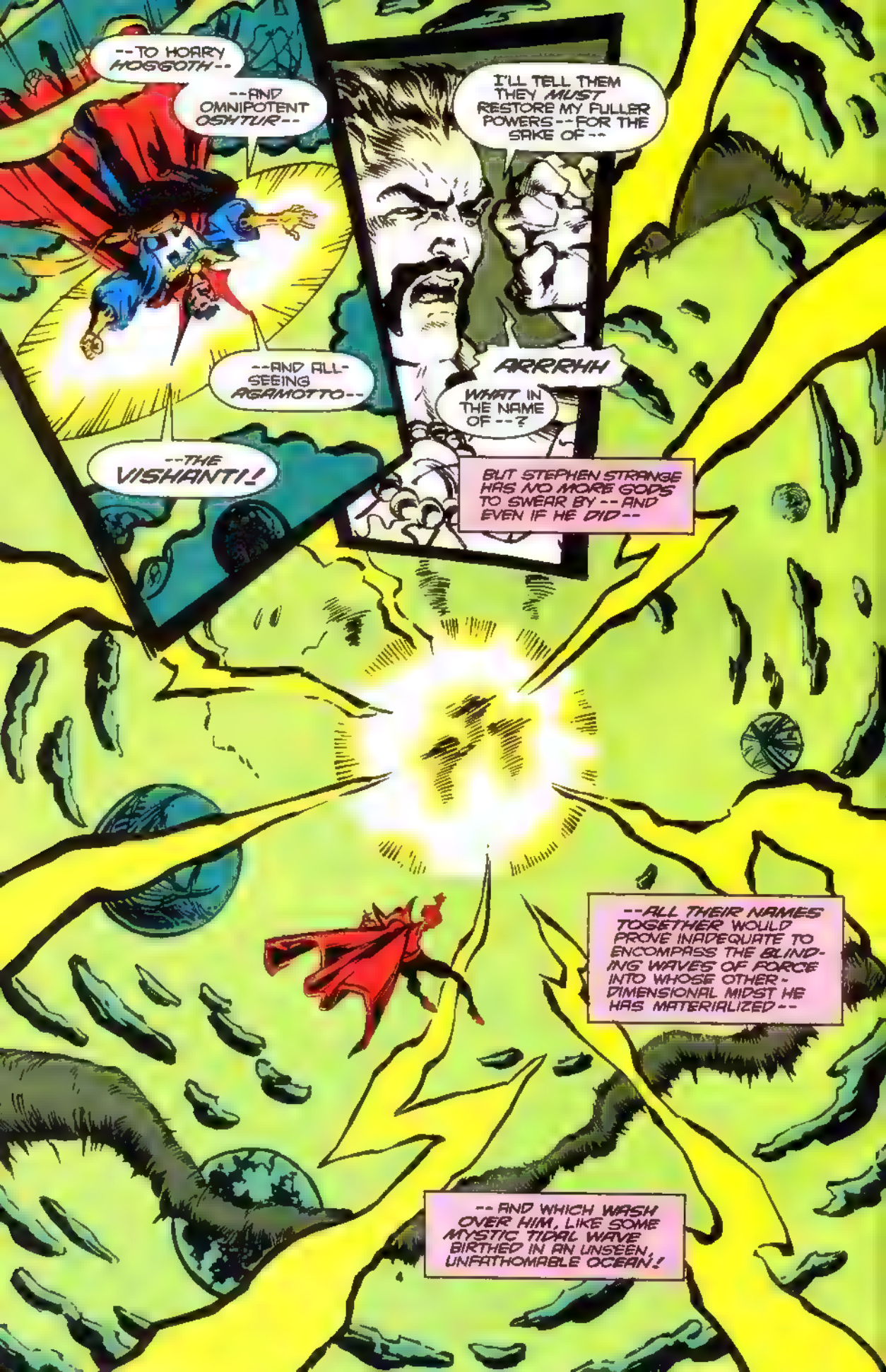
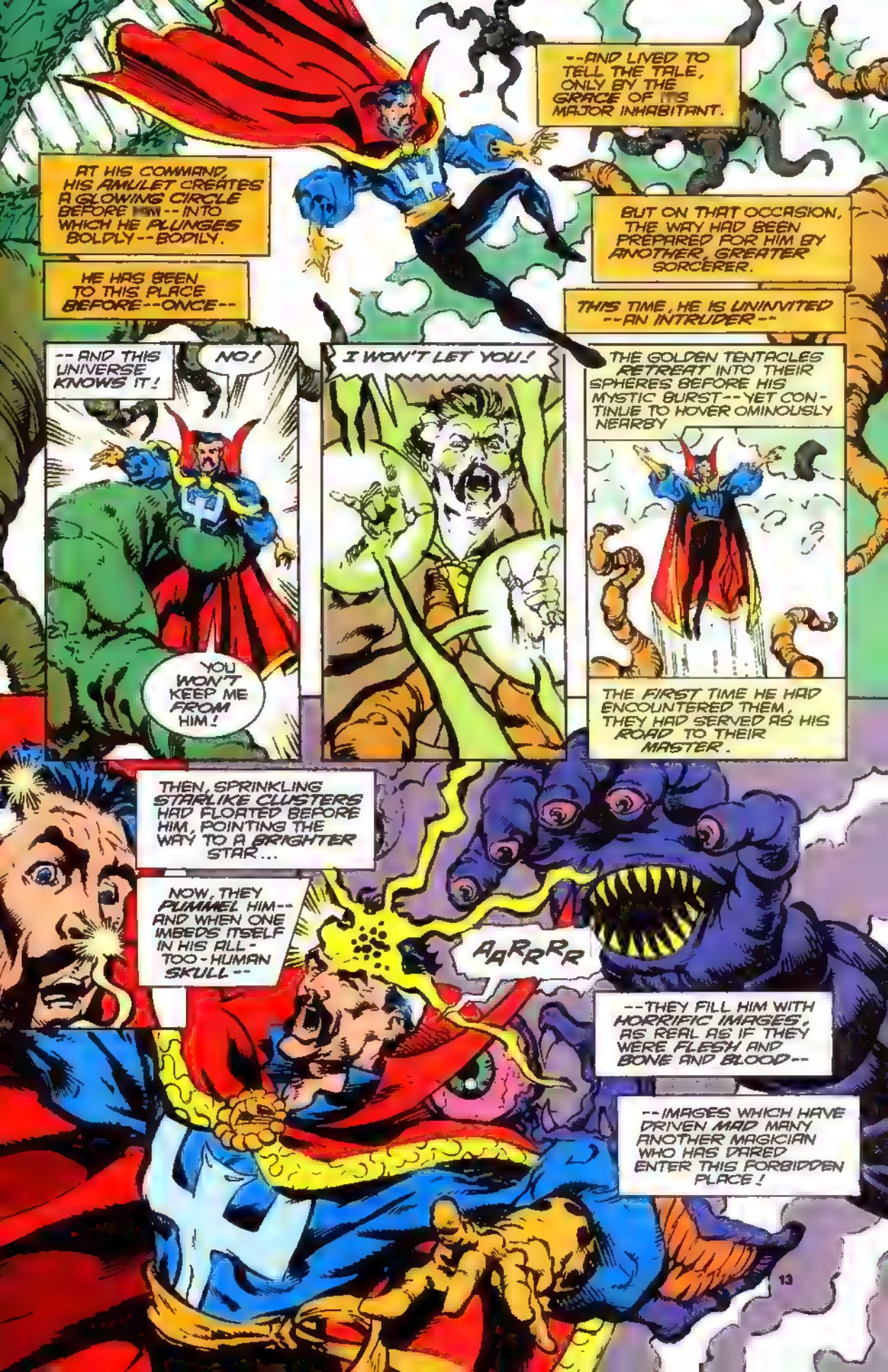
STILL, DESPITE MY SHORN POWERS, I AM NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT RESOURCES.
ORB OF AGAMOTTO-- SHOW TO ME THE HIDDEN PUPPETEER--
--WHO LURKS BEHIND THE CURTAIN.
AH!
A WOMAN THIS TIME!
ONE WHO HAS ABOUT HER THE AURA OF-- A GODDESS!
SHE IS NO ENTITY I HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE--
AND YET, THERE IS ABOUT HER AN AURA OF SUCH AWESOME POWER-- THAT I FEAR SHE MAY PROVE AN EVEN MORE FORMIDABLE FORCE THAN THANOS OR THE MAGUS.
PORTUNATELY, SUCH IS THE ORB'S SUBTLE POTENCY THAT I CAN BEHOLD HER, WITHOUT HER BEING AWARE OF ME.
BUT I CAN LEARN LITTLE FROM A MERE IMAGE WITHIN A GLOBE...
...AND THE FATE OF THE WORLD I AM SWORN TO SAFEGUARD MAY DEPEND UPON MY LEARNING MORE.

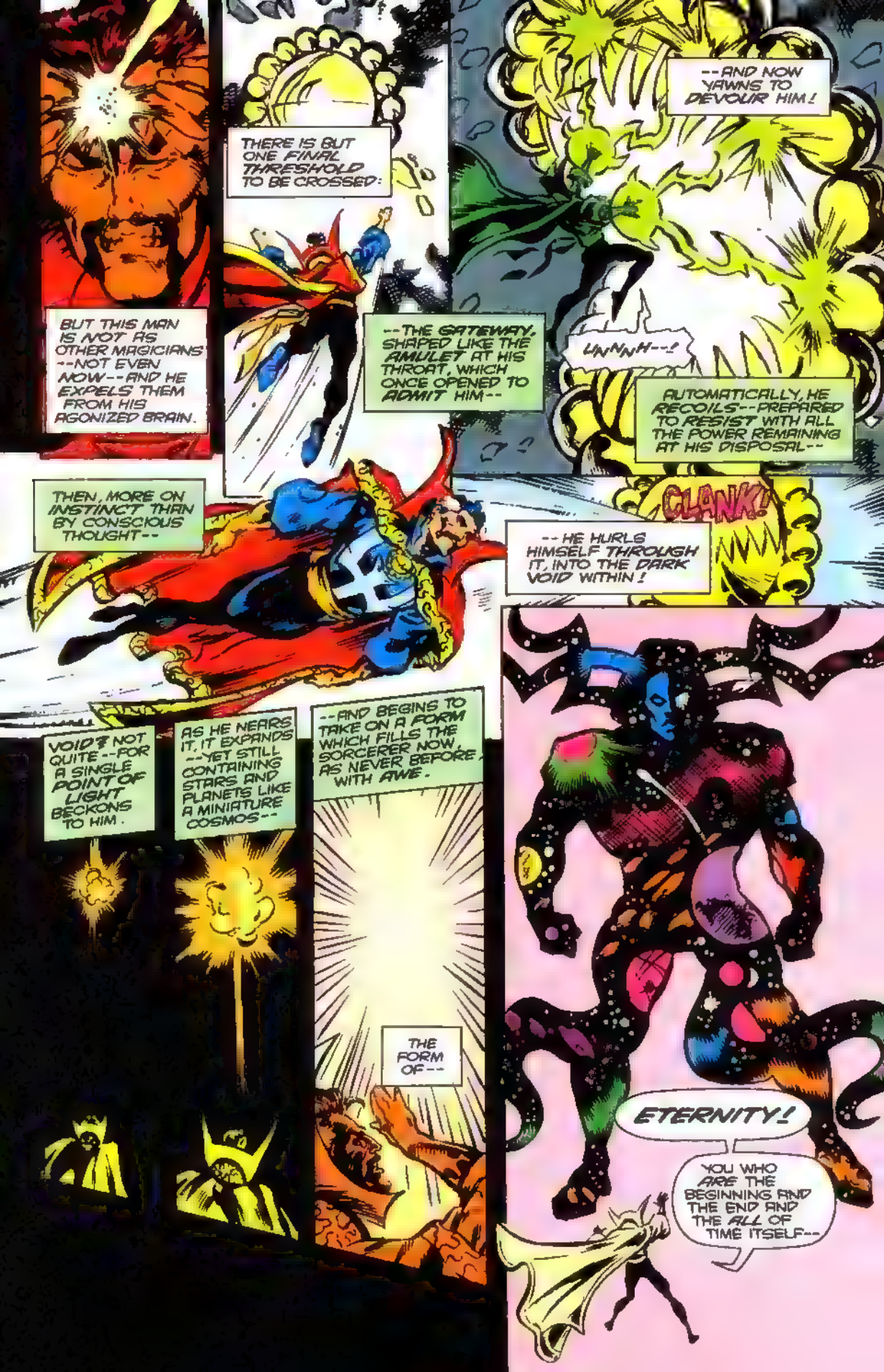
TO DO SO-- AND TO OPPOSE THIS GODDESS, OR SUPPORT HER IN HER HOLY PLAN--
--I NEED POWER!
MORE POWER THAN I HAVE IN MY PRESENT SITUATION AS A MERE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, HOWEVER KNOWLEDGEABLE--
MORE POWER THAN ANY POSSIBLE ASSEMBLAGE OF EARTH-BASED SECRET DEFENDERS COULD GIVE ME--
--THE KIND OF MAGICAL POWERS THE GODS OF THE OUTER DIMENSIONS STRIPPED ME OF, MONTHS AGO!*
* SEE DOC #48-49.--MIKE
IN OTHER WORDS--
--I NEED TO BECOME SORCERER SUPREME AGAIN!
IT WAS THE VISHANTI WHO INITIATED MY DEMOTION, BY DEMANDING THAT I FIGHT ON THEIR SIDE IN THEIR WAR AGAINST THE TRINITY OF ASH'S--
--WHICH, ITSELF, IS ONLY ONE PART OF A WIDER WAR OF THE SEVEN SPHERES.
THUS, IT IS TO THAT THREE-IN-ONE BEING THAT I SHALL JOURNEY FIRST--


--TO HORRY HOGGOTH--
--AND OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR--
--AND ALL-SEEING AGAMOTTO--
--THE VISHANTI!
I'LL TELL THEM THEY MUST RESTORE MY FULLER POWERS--FOR THE SAKE OF--
ARRRHH
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?
BUT STEPHEN STRANGE HAS NO MORE GODS TO SWEAR BY--AND EVEN IF HE DID--
--ALL THEIR NAMES TOGETHER WOULD PROVE INADEQUATE TO ENCOMPASS THE BLINDING WAVES OF FORCE INTO WHOSE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL MIDST HE HAS MATERIALIZED--
--AND WHICH WASH OVER HIM, LIKE SOME MYSTIC TIDAL WAVE BIRTHED IN AN UNSEEN, UNFATHOMABLE OCEAN!

HE REALIZES AT ONCE THAT HE IS SILENT WITNESS TO A CONFLAGRATION COMPARED TO WHICH A NUCLEAR BLAST IS NO MORE THAN A CHILD'S FIRECRACKER--
AND THEN HE SEES--
--THE VISHANTI, BATTLING THE FORCES OF GRIEF-SAVOR, YGMLOSVORRAICH, AND MOTHER-OF-PAIN--
--THE FABLED TRINITY OF ASHES!
FOR YEARS, HE HAS BELIEVED THE VISHANTI, SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER, TO BE NEARLY ALL-POWERFUL, SO FAR ABOVE ALL HUMAN FORCE AND ENDEAVOR DO THEY SEEM.
TO BEHOLD THEM NOW FIGHTING FOR THEIR VERY LIVES AGAINST A FOE WHICH SEEMS AT LEAST THEIR EQUAL IS MORE THAN EVEN HE IS PREPARED FOR.
HE TRIES TO GET HIS MIND AROUND THE FACT THAT OTHER BATTLES--PERHAPS EVEN GREATER ONES--ARE GOING ON IN OTHER DIMENSIONS, INVOLVING WATOOMB AND IKONN AND CYTORRAK AND EVEN THE ANGELIC SERAPHIM.
BUT EVEN HIS BRAIN CANNOT ENCOMPASS THE CONCEPT--
--AND HE KNOWS HE CANNOT CALL UPON THE VISHANTI, OR ANY OF HIS FORMER PATRON ENTITIES, TO RESTORE HIS LOST POWERS TO HIM.
INDEED, IT IS ALL HE CAN MANAGE TO FLEE THE COSMIC HURRICANE WHICH NOW BATTERS HIM MADDENINGLY--
11

--AND PRAY, TO ANY WHO MAY BE LISTENING, THAT THE WAR OF THE SEVEN SPHERES DOES NOT BREAK ITS DIMENSIONAL BONDS--
--AND SPILL OVER INTO THE FRAGILE DIMENSION IN WHICH EARTH IS BUT A MINOR PLANET OF A MINOR STAR IN A MINOR GALAXY.
FOR WHAT COULD HE-- WHAT COULD ANYONE-- DO THEN TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF THAT ENTIRE UNI-VERSE?
ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY DOES HE FORCE HIS MIND TO RETURN TO THE MYSTERY HE SENSES IS POSED BY THE GODDESS.
PERHAPS IT IS OUR UNIVERSE'S TRUE CHANCE FOR SALVATION-- PERHAPS NOT--
IN EITHER EVENT, IT, TOO, WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ERASE THE EARTH FROM THE SLATE OF THE UNIVERSE, LIKE A CHILD'S WRONG ANSWER FROM A BLACK-BOARD.
STILL--THERE IS ONE WHOSE POWER IS AS VAST, AS IMMEASURABLE, AS EVEN THOSE WHO FIGHT THEIR INTER-COSMIC ARMAGEDDONS--
--YET WHO SEEMS TO HAVE REMAINED, AT LEAST TILL NOW, ABOVE THAT FEARSOME FRAY.
IF THIS ENTITY RESENTS BEING CONTACTED BY A MERE HUMAN, IT COULD SWAT STEPHEN STRANGE LIKE THE MEREST GNAT...
BUT THAT IS A RISK HE IS PREPARED TO TAKE.
A RISK HE MUST TAKE.


--AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE, ONLY BY THE GRACE OF ITS MAJOR INHABITANT.
AT HIS COMMAND, HIS AMULET CREATES A GLOWING CIRCLE BEFORE HIM--INTO WHICH HE PLUNGES BOLDLY--BODILY.
BUT ON THAT OCCASION, THE WAY HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR HIM BY ANOTHER, GREATER SORCERER.
HE HAS BEEN TO THIS PLACE BEFORE--ONCE--
THIS TIME, HE IS UNINVITED --AN INTRUDER--
--AND THIS UNIVERSE KNOWS IT!
NO!
I WON'T LET YOU!
THE GOLDEN TENTACLES RETREAT INTO THEIR SPHERES BEFORE HIS MYSTIC BURST--YET CONTINUE TO HOVER OMINOUSLY NEARBY
YOU WON'T KEEP ME FROM HIM!
THE FIRST TIME HE HAD ENCOUNTERED THEM, THEY HAD SERVED AS HIS ROAD TO THEIR MASTER.
THEN, SPRINKLING STARLIKE CLUSTERS HAD FLOATED BEFORE HIM, POINTING THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER STAR...
NOW, THEY PUMMEL HIM--AND WHEN ONE IMBEDS ITSELF IN HIS ALL-TOO-HUMAN SKULL--
AARRRR
--THEY FILL HIM WITH HORRIFIC IMAGES, AS REAL AS IF THEY WERE FLESH AND BONE AND BLOOD--
--IMAGES WHICH HAVE DRIVEN MAD MANY ANOTHER MAGICIAN WHO HAS DARED ENTER THIS FORBIDDEN PLACE!


BUT THIS MAN IS NOT AS OTHER MAGICIANS --NOT EVEN NOW--AND HE EXPELS THEM FROM HIS AGONIZED BRAIN.
THERE IS BUT ONE FINAL THRESHOLD TO BE CROSSED:
--THE GATEWAY, SHAPED LIKE THE AMULET AT HIS THROAT, WHICH ONCE OPENED TO ADMIT HIM--
--AND NOW YAWNS TO DEVOUR HIM!
UNNNH--!
AUTOMATICALLY, HE RECOILS--PREPARED TO RESIST WITH ALL THE POWER REMAINING AT HIS DISPOSAL--
CLANK!
--HE HURLS HIMSELF THROUGH IT, INTO THE DARK VOID WITHIN!
THEN, MORE ON INSTINCT THAN BY CONSCIOUS THOUGHT--
VOID? NOT QUITE--FOR A SINGLE POINT OF LIGHT BECKONS TO HIM.
AS HE NEARS IT, IT EXPANDS --YET STILL CONTAINING STARS AND PLANETS LIKE A MINIATURE COSMOS--
--AND BEGINS TO TAKE ON A FORM WHICH FILLS THE SORCERER NOW, AS NEVER BEFORE, WITH AWE.
THE FORM OF--
ETERNITY!
YOU WHO ARE THE BEGINNING AND THE END AND THE ALL OF TIME ITSELF--

I KNOW IT IS FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK IN YOUR PRESENCE --BUT I MUST KNOW ABOUT THE GODDESS I BEHELD IN MY ORB--
--AND GAIN FROM YOU POWER TO COMBAT HER, IF SHE IS THE DANGER I PERCEIVE HER TO BE!
I KNOW OF THIS "GODDESS--" YOU BELIEVE HER--
--IN NO WAY DOES SHE CONCERN ME.
--WHAT INDUCEMENT COULD YOU POSSIBLY OFFER ME TO INTERFERE IN A MATTER INVOLVING ONLY ONE DIMENSION?
I CHALLENGE YOU TO DO BATTLE, ETERNITY!
I DEMAND THAT YOU HELP ME REGAIN MY POWER!
I DEMAND SILENCE IN MY UNIVERSE NOT BECAUSE I NEED THE RESPECT OF MORTALS--
YOU OVERREACH YOURSELF, STEPHEN STRANGE.
IF I WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN THE WAR OF THE SEVEN SPHERES, WHERE SO MUCH MORE IS AT STAKE--
--BUT BECAUSE I ALREADY KNOW ALL THEY COULD POSSIBLY TELL ME
IF I WIN, YOU WILL AT LEAST TAKE ME TO THE GODDESS!
IF I LOSE, I CONSENT TO BE CONSUMED BY YOU, AS A DROP OF WATER IS WITHIN AN OCEAN--TO ADD MY MINOR SORCEROUS LUSTER TO YOUR GODHEAD.
OF COURSE, YOU WOULD ADD SO LITTLE TO MY IMMORTAL BEING, I WOULD SCARCELY NOTICE IT.
AN INTRIGUING CHALLENGE--AND AS CLOSE TO BEING UNEXPECTED AS A MORTAL COULD POSSIBLY COME!
YET, YOU ARE RISKING YOUR ALL--YOUR VERY ESSENCE--AGAINST SUCH AN INFINITESIMAL PART OF MYSELF--!
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
AS YOU KNOW, YOU WERE THE SECOND MORTAL EVER TO STAND BEFORE ME HERE IN THIS COSMOS.
IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT YOUR OPPONENT SHOULD BE THE FIRST.
--THE ANCIENT ONE!
YOU ARE THE FOE OF ETERNITY--
I CANNOT ENGAGE YOU MYSELF, FOR THAT WOULD BE BENEATH ME--
BUT HERE, FROM WITHIN ME, IS ONE WHO CAN!
NO...
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW HIM AS--
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--AND THUS, YOU ARE MY FOE, AS WELL!
DR. STRANGE SUDDENLY REALIZES--THE ANCIENT ONE HAS BEEN SNATCHED FROM A PERIOD BEFORE HE KNEW WHO STEPHEN STRANGE WAS...
FOR HE APPEARS FAR YOUNGER THAN HE KNEW HIM.
SURELY THE PHYSICIAN-TURNED-SORCERER COULD HAVE NO GREATER MORTAL OPPONENT!
THIS IS THE MAN WHO TAUGHT HIM ALL HE KNOWS--BUT NOT NECESSARILY ALL THE ANCIENT ONE KNOWS.
IN ADDITION, STEPHEN CANNOT FORCE HIMSELF TO USE FULLY HIS REMAINING POWERS AGAINST HIS FORMER MENTOR--
--WHILE HIS ANTAGONIST HAS NO SUCH INHIBITIONS
MNGGMNN
AND YET--HE CANNOT DENY IT--THERE IS SOMETHING ALMOST EXHILARATING ABOUT THIS OCCULT DUEL, IN SPITE OF ALL.
YOU SEEM SOMEHOW EXPERIENCED BEYOND THE LEVEL OF THE SPELLS YOU CAN EMPLOY, EVIL ONE!
BUT, IN THE END, IT WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!
HE ALWAYS WONDERED, DEEP IN HIS HEART, WHICH OF THE TWO OF THEM WOULD HAVE TRIUMPHED, HAD THEY FOUGHT.
AFTER TODAY--ONE WAY OR THE OTHER--HE WILL NEVER HAVE TO PONDER THAT MYSTERY AGAIN.

AARGHKKK--!
I AM NO BLACK MAGICIAN, MASTER! I AM--
SPARE ME YOUR LIES-- AND THE BASE FLATTERY OF CALLING ME "MASTER"!
BY HOGGOTH'S HOARY HORDES, I SHALL BE YOUR MASTER, RYE--
--WHEN I HAVE DEFEATED YOU WITH THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORRAK!
--PERHAPS I CAN STILL--
THEN BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY I AM NO EVIL SORCERER!
--DISSOLVE THEM!
BY AGAMOTTO! THAT SECRET IS KNOWN ONLY TO THE MOST SKILLED OF MAGES!
ONCE-- I COULD WIELD THEM-- AS READILY AS YOU-- AND THOUGH I CAN DO SO NO LONGER--
WORSE! YOU ARE AN EVIL SORCERER OF UNCOMMON POWER-- PERHAPS A DISCIPLE OF DORMAMMU HIMSELF!

STEPHEN SEES THAT ARGUMENT WILL AVAIL HIM NOTHING.
SUCH IS THE ANCIENT ONE'S REVERENCE FOR ETERNITY THAT HE CANNOT CONCEIVE OF HIS NAMING AS AN ENEMY ONE WHO IS NOT TRULY AN ENEMY.
WITH EVERY MOMENT, THE EARLIER SORCERER SUPREME'S SPELLS BATTER MORE FIERCELY AT THOSE OF HIS UN-GUESSED SUCCESSOR...
YET, THERE IS ONE LAST, DESPERATE HOPE.
HARDLY DARING TO THINK, LEST THE ENTITY KNOW HIS THOUGHTS--
--STEPHEN WHIRLS, AND SENDS A BOLT OF RETRIEVAL AT ETERNITY HIMSELF!
THUS WEAKENED, HIS LESS-THAN-SERAPHIMIC SHIELD WILL HOLD BACK THE ANCIENT ONE'S ATTACK FOR MERE MOMENTS--
--AND THAT MUST BE SUFFICIENT!
YOU ARE RESOURCEFUL, MORTAL.
I DID NOT FORBID YOUR ACTION -- AND EVERYTHING WHICH IS NOT FORBIDDEN--
--IS RE-QUIRED, GREAT ONE!
AND NOW, THAT WHICH I HAVE TAKEN FROM YOU--

--I MUST SWIFTLY BESTOW UPON ANOTHER!
THE GLOWING FRAGMENTS WHICH DR. STRANGE NOW HURLS ARE PHYSICALLY INTANGIBLE--NOR ARE THEY TRULY MAGICAL--
--AND THUS, THEY PASS THROUGH HIS OPPONENT'S SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM--
BY THE VIPERS OF VALTORR!
--TO ENWRAP HIM--
THIS SHARD-BORNE MIST DOES NOT HARM ME--AND YET--
--ENFOLD HIM--
--I FEEL MYSELF BEING--
--ENGULF HIM!
--CHANGED!
I AM--OLDER! I--
--STEPHEN STRANGE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MY SON?
I SHOULD BE BACK IN MY HIMALAYAN LAIR, WEAVING SPELLS TO KEEP THE WORLD SAFE FROM MY ROGUE DISCIPLE, BARON MORDO...
AND YOU SHALL BE, MY MENTOR--FOR SURELY ETERNITY WILL NOW SEND YOU HENCE!
YET, I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEHELD YOU IN THE FLESH, ONE LAST TIME--NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE RISK--!
STEPHEN YEARNS TO EXPLAIN HIS RUSE, TO PERHAPS THE ONE MAN WHO COULD UNDERSTAND:
THAT HE TORE SHARDS OF TIME FROM ETERNITY'S OWN BEING, WITH WHICH TO BOMBARD HIS ONCE-MASTER.
EACH FRAGMENT CONTAINED CENTURIES--EVEN MILLENNIA--

--AGEING BOTH THE SAGE-- AND HIS MEMORIES!
NOW RE-MEMBERING HIS DISCIPLE, THE ANCIENT ONE CEASES FIGHTING, AND THEN IS--
GONE!
--ABSORBED BACK INTO THAT SWIRLING VORTEX WHICH IS ETERNITY.
I WON, ETERNITY!
NOW WILL YOU TAKE ME TO THE GOD-DESS?
YOU ARE BRAZEN, MORTAL-- TO SEEK TO COUNT SUCH AN ENDING AS A VICTORY.
STILL, YOU ARE CLEVER-- AND YOU MEAN WELL, IN YOUR WAY--
THUS, THOUGH I SHALL NOT RESTORE TO YOU ANY OF YOUR LOST POWERS--
--I SHALL MAKE YOU PRIVY TO THAT WHICH THE GODDESS HAS IN MIND FOR THE MORTALS OF YOUR WORLD!
BEHOLD!
ETERNITY IS TIME INCARNATED.
WHEN HE RAISES A HAND WHICH HOLDS WHOLE UNIVERSES WITHIN IT, PAST AND PRESENT AND FUTURE ALL CASCADE INTO THE MIND OF STEPHEN STRANGE...
...AND HE SEES:
NO...

HE SEES ALL WHICH THE GODDESS HAS DONE, TO PREPARE HER COMING.
HE SEES ALL WHICH SHE IS DOING, EVEN NOW
THROUGH A FINE MIST, HE EVEN SEES MUCH, THOUGH NOT ALL, OF THAT WHICH WILL OCCUR.
AND HE IS FILLED WITH APPREHENSION.
ETERNITY--THIS IS EVERYTHING THAT I MIGHT HAVE FEARED!
YOU MUST GIVE ME POWER--POWER TO REPLACE WHAT THE VISHANTI AND OTHERS TOOK FROM ME--SO I CAN KEEP THIS FUTURE FROM COMING TO PASS!
YOU ARE STILL A MOST PUISSANT SORCERER
BUT THE POWERS YOU REQUEST ARE ONLY FOR OTHERS TO RETURN TO YOU, IF AND WHEN THEY WILL--
--NOT FOR ME EITHER TO RESTORE OR TO REPLACE.
THEN HOW CAN I GO ON--KNOWING WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE FOR ME--FOR THE EARTH?
NO MAN MAY KNOW HIS FUTURE--LEST IT HENCEFORTH COME UNRAVELED, WITH RESULTS DIRE FOR ALL THE MULTIVERSE.
YOU WILL GO ON--BECAUSE YOU WILL FORGET ALL YOU HAVE WITNESSED TODAY.
YOU WILL FORGET THE GODDESS--
--FORGET BATTLING THE ANCIENT ONE--
--EVEN FORGET SEEING MYSELF!
I VOWED TO SHOW YOU WHAT YOU WANTED TO KNOW, MAGICIAN--BUT NOT TO ALLOW YOU TO RETAIN THAT KNOWLEDGE ON A CONSCIOUS LEVEL.
BUT I MUST REMEMBER WHAT I'VE LEARNED--SO I CAN FIGHT THE GODDESS!
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE MY MEMORY FROM ME!
I DEFY YOU!

YOU ARE COURAGEOUS... BUT YOU ARE STILL ONLY A MAN.
DO NOT SEEK TO DO OR TO KNOW MORE THAN IS YOUR STATION.
NOW, YOU WILL RETURN TO WHENCE YOU CAME--
--AND TO WHEN YOU CAME!
WHERE-- WAS I?
OH YES--I WAS ABOUT TO CONSULT THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO, ABOUT--
--ABOUT--
THAT'S ODD!
I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHY I CAME UP HERE TO MY SANCTUM.
YET I KNOW THERE WAS SOME REASON-- AN IMPORTANT REASON!
PERHAPS--IF I PLACE A SPELL ON MYSELF, MY SUBCONSCIOUS WILL TELL ME--
STEPHEN STRANGE--

I AM THE GODDESS.
THE ENTIRE GALAXY HAS CALLED OUT TO ME... AND I HAVE ANSWERED THAT SUMMONS, FOR I DO THE WORK OF THE SUPREME ONE.
ONLY I CAN RESCUE HUMANITY FROM ETERNAL HELL'S FIRE.
TO DO THIS, I HAVE COME TO BEINGS LIKE YOURSELF, DR. STRANGE, WHO ARE DEEPLY IN TOUCH WITH THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THEIR NATURES.
WILL YOU JOIN ME--IN MY HOLY WORK--
--IN MY INFINITY CRUSADE?
YES...
FOR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #1, AND--
--IN DOC #55, THE CRUSADE CONTINUES-- WITH THE DREAD DORMAMMU!

"AND NOW... CENTAURION!"
JOIN US AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT A YOUNG MYSTIC WHO MAY BE MORE TROUBLESOME THAN DOCTOR STRANGE HAD HOPED FOR...
THIS YOUNG MAN IN A QUANDARY IS KYLLIAN.
OVER THE COURSE OF A FEW WEEKS HIS WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN INVERTED.
HE WAS RISING QUICKLY THROUGH THE UNDER-WORLD RANKS AS AN ENFORCER UNTIL STRANGE VISIONS TOLD HIM HIS SISTER WAS IN GRAVE DANGER!
THE VISIONS MANIFESTED IN HIM TREMENDOUS POWERS DURING THE RESCUE ATTEMPT, LEAVING HIM FEELING MORE LIKE A PUPPET THAN A HERO!*
* ALL THIS OCCURRED IN DOC ANNUAL #3, NOW ON SALE --MIKE
ALL RIGHT, YOU LOUSY GODS, MAKE THIS STICK DO SOMETHING!
"WHAT'VE I GOTTA DO? I CALLED UPON CERNUNNOS, GOD OF THE HUNT--
"--MORRIGAN, GODDESS OF WAR AND DEATH--
"--AND TARANIS, GOD OF WISDOM AND THE THUNDERBOLT!"
STORY + ART GEOF ISHERWOOD LETTERS DIANA ALBERS
COLORS GEORGE ROUSSOS EDITOR MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR IN CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

YOU GAVE ME THIS RIDICULOUS STAFF!
YOU PROMISED TO SERVE ME WHEN I CALL YOU!
I DIDN'T ASK FOR THESE POWERS!
I DEMAND AN ANSWER!
DR. STRANGE INTERCEDED IN THIS BIZARRE ALLIANCE THAT FULFILLED AN ANCIENT OATH.
FEARING HIS NEW, RAW POWERS MAY CAUSE OTHERS HARM, HE AGREED TO TUTOR THE LAD.
NEVERTHELESS, THINGS ARE NOT GOING TOO WELL FOR YOUNG KYLLIAN.
WONG! QUIT SNEAKIN' UP ON ME! YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN YOURSELF HURT!
IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO STARTLE YOU.
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE TO WAIT FOR STEPHEN'S RETURN BEFORE ATTEM TING NEW MAGICKS.
THAT'S FINE FOR HIM, MAYBE!
BUT I'M SICK A BEING COOPED UP IN THIS MAUSOLEUM! BESIDES, I STILL HAVE TO SETTLE SOME BUSINESS!
VERY WELL. I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO STAY.

MEANWHILE, THE CONSEQUENCES OF KYLLIAN'S ARRIVAL AS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH ARE BECOMING APPARENT ON LOFTY MOUNT OLYMPUS.
WHAT PURPOSE IS THERE IN THIS AIMLESS MEANDERING THROUGH OUR ISOLATED CITY?
I, BELLONA, FOR ONE CRAVE ACTION! WHAT GOOD IS A GODDESS OF WAR WITH NO ARMY TO INSPIRE?
CAWWWK!
GREAT ZEUS! 'TIS AN OMEN FROM SYBILLA! MAYHAP A CHALLENGE IS AT HAND!
THIS MAY PROVIDE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SURPASS PROUD ARES, WHO FARES POORLY AGAINST THOR OF LATE! *
*SEE THOR #462 --MIKE

ARES HAS NO LOVE FOR SYBILLA. HE LOATHES HER FOR HER PROPHECIES OF DEFEAT AND INFAMY!
I PRAY THAT I FARE BETTER!
SYBILLA! YOU BEAR TIDINGS?
YES, BRASH BELLONA! YOUR DAYS OF LONGING FOR EARTHLY CONTEST ARE OVER!
OBSERVE!
WHO THEN IS THIS YOUTH WHOSE IMAGE RISES IN SMOKE FROM YOUR CAULDRON?
HE IS KYLLIAN, AND HE HOSTS THE FORMS OF YOUR OLD ENEMIES TARANIS, MORRIGAN AND CERNUNNOS OF THE CELTS!
THE ROMANS NEVER CONQUERED IRELAND! IT HAS EVER BEEN A THORN IN ZEUS' SIDE!
TRUE! THOUGH THE ROMANS ADOPTED AND RENAMED US TO LEAD THEM, IT WAS THE OLYMPIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR THAT OUTPOST OF CIVILIZATION!
MANY THANKS, SYBILLA! TAKE THIS OFFERING OF ELYSIAN HONEY TO SWEETEN YOUR CAKES.
YOU ARE ALWAYS MINDFUL OF MY WEAKNESS, BELLONA! THE PATH BEFORE YOU SHINES GLORIOUS!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO UNLEASH MY CHAMPION, WHOM I HAVE PREPARED FOR CENTURIES TO ACT THIS VERY DAY!

AFTER MY ASSAULT ON KRANCHUK AND HATCHER, THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION WILL BE AFTER MY HIDE! I HAVE TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM, BEFORE THEY CAN REGROUP!
I'VE GOT TO DO IT FOR SIS!
WHAT THE--?
PRAY TO YOUR PUNY GODS, MORTAL!
FOR IT'S THE LAST ACT YOU WILL EVER PERFORM! THUS SWEARS THE CENTAURION!
DEFINITELY CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS
The Holy Terror BEGINS HERE!
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
ALPHA FLIGHT
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'Ye are VOITCHSAFE'
THE VOICES HAD MUTTERED IN THAT DARK, SECRET PLACE IN HER HEAD.
'Ye are the key, the power that layeth open worlds. Ye are our destiny!'
'BUT WHO AM I?" SHE WOULD CRY. "WHY CAN I NOT REMEMBER?"
'Soon, Little One--' THE VOICES WOULD ALWAYS REPLY...
'--soon ye will know all!'
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
ALPHA FLIGHT
HOLY TERROR!
PART 1

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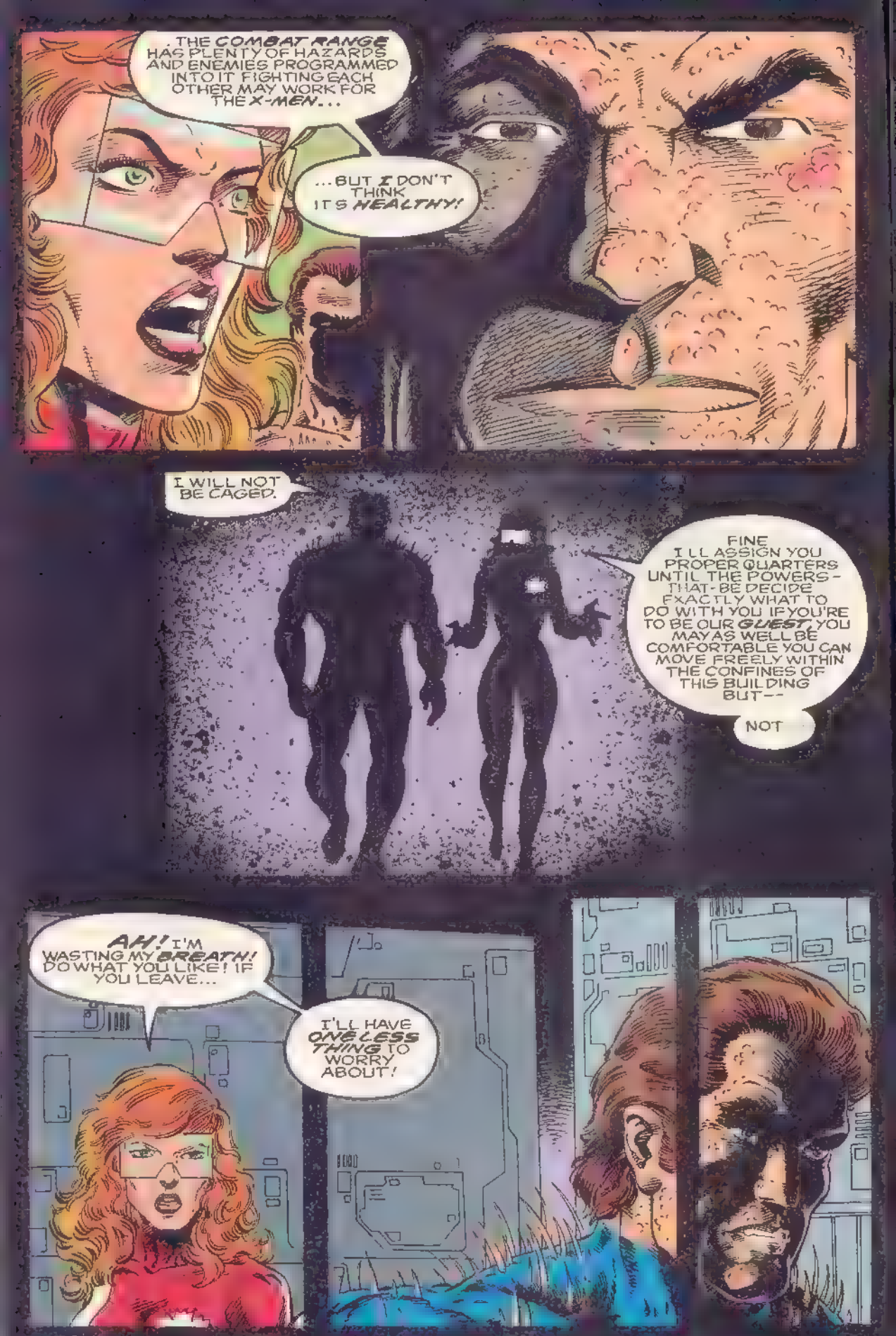
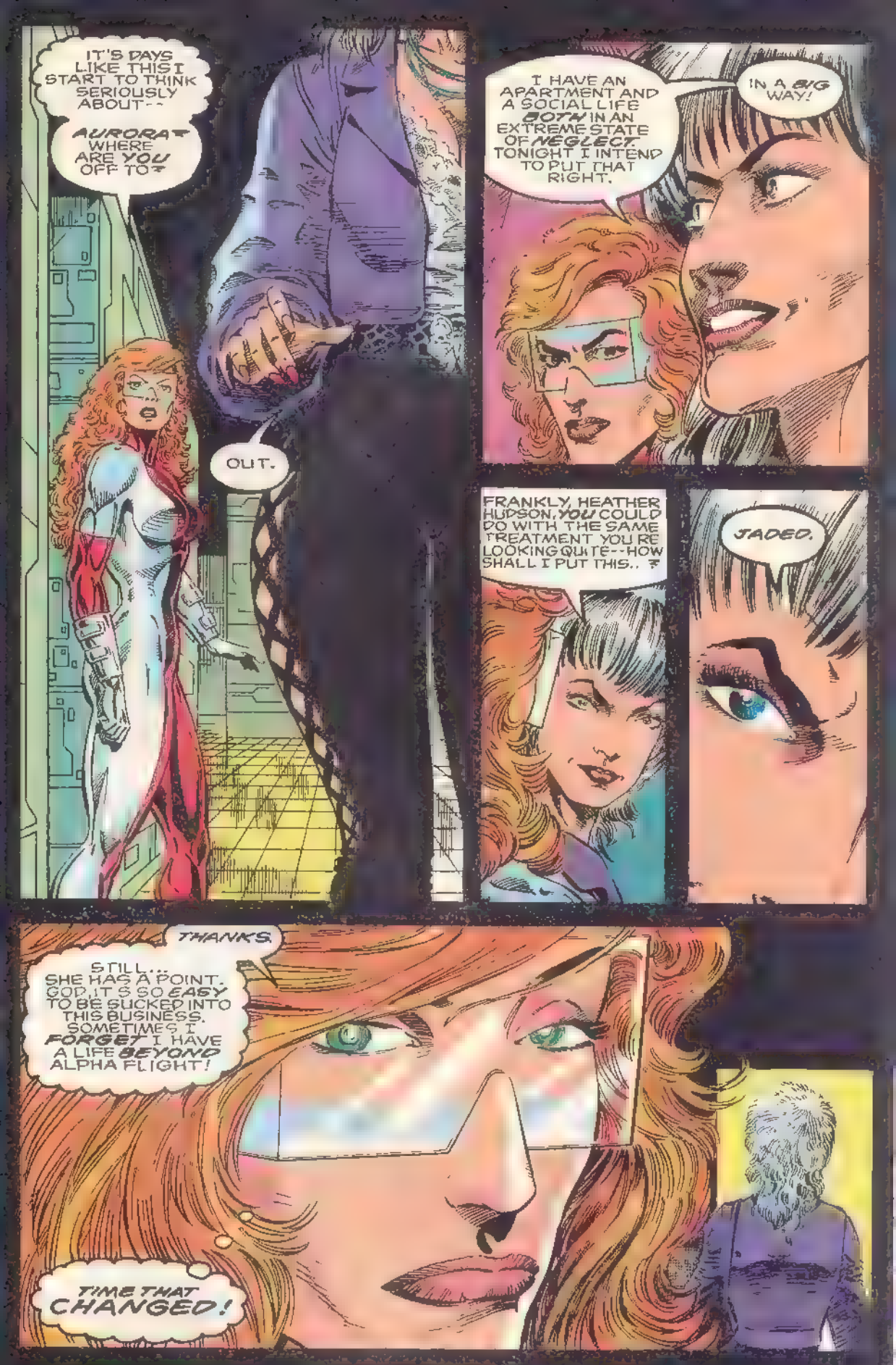
WYRE--
--GENETICALLY ENHANCED ASSASSIN
IN COMMON WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF BETA (NOT TO MENTION ALPHA) FLIGHT, SHE BARELY KNOWS HIM.
WHICH MAKES KILLING HIM ALL THE EASIER!
HE DIES WITHOUT A SOUND. WITHOUT A SCREAM.
GOBLYN--
--MUTANT SIBLING OF PATHWAY, FOREVER IMPRISONED IN A TWISTED MOCKERY OF A HUMAN FORM.
ON HER SHE TAKES PITY

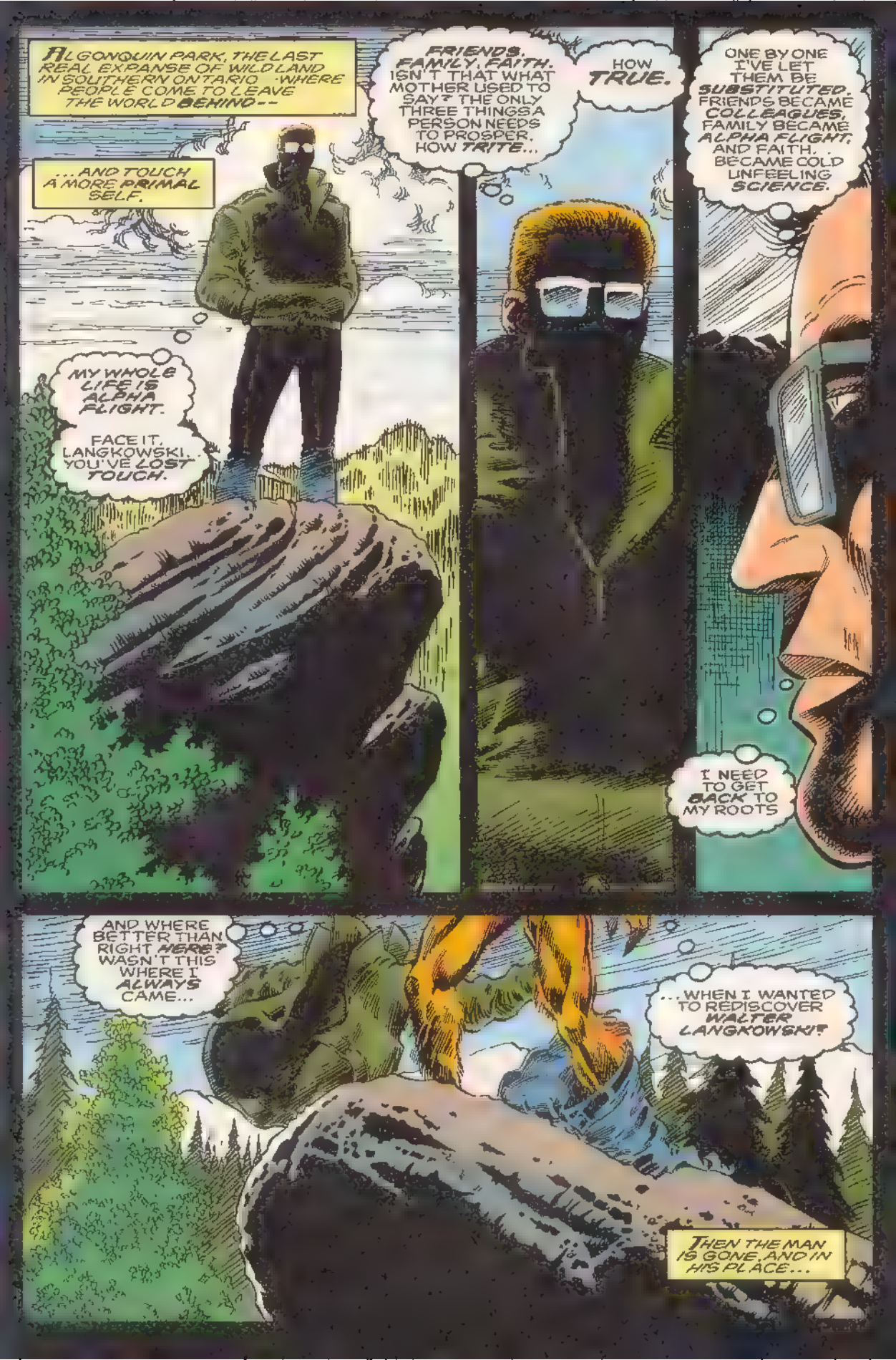
AND INSTEAD OF DISASSEMBLING HER AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL..
CASTS A TIME-LOOP THAT LEAVES HER LEAPING THROUGH ETERNITY.
ALLOWING PERSUASION THE PRECIOUS SECONDS SHE NEEDS TO STEP THROUGH PATHWAY'S PORTAL AND SAY
YOU ARE IN MY POWER. YOU WILL DO ONLY WHAT I SAY!
YASITAHW LYNOODL LI--
BUT THE ATTACK IS A DIVERSION.
YAK!
TAKE NOTE, CHILD..

I AM VERY HARD TO KILL
THERE NOW IT IS--
UU--
A-
WH--
WHAT--
AH!
AH!
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
PROGRAM TERMINATED.
NOW. WOULD SOMEONE KINDLY EXPLAIN...

--EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN HERE?
PATHWAY, YOU AND GOBLYN ARE SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL. AND WITCHFIRE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RECOVERING FROM--
HM.
AND AS FOR YOU!
THAT'S THE FOURTH DETENTION CELL YOU'VE BROKEN OUT OF IN AS MANY DAYS. SO MUCH FOR OUR SO-CALLED SECURE AREA.
PERHAPS IT'D BE BETTER...
NOT TO MENTION CHEAPER!
...IF WE SIMPLY GAVE YOU THE RUN OF DEPARTMENT H!
ERM... GUARDIAN, I GUESS... THIS IS DOWN TO ME. I FIGURED THE BETAS WERE MAYBE GETTING RUSTY, JUST SITTING AROUND.
Y'KNOW?
NO, WHIT - I DO NOT KNOW!
FOR STARTERS, THIS IS NOT A SCHEDULED TRAINING PERIOD. SECOND, NO SENIOR TEAM-MEMBER WAS PRESENT. AND THIRD...


. THE COMBAT RANGE HAS PLENTY OF HAZARDS AND ENEMIES PROGRAMMED INTO IT FIGHTING EACH OTHER MAY WORK FOR THE X-MEN...
...BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S HEALTHY!
I WILL NOT BE CAGED.
FINE I'LL ASSIGN YOU PROPER QUARTERS UNTIL THE POWERS-THAT-BE DECIDE EXACTLY WHAT TO DO WITH YOU IF YOU'RE TO BE OUR GUEST, YOU MAY AS WELL BE COMFORTABLE YOU CAN MOVE FREELY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS BUILDING BUT--
NOT
AH! I'M WASTING MY BREATH! DO WHAT YOU LIKE! IF YOU LEAVE...
I'LL HAVE ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT!


IT'S DAYS LIKE THIS I START TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT--
AURORA? WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
OUT.
I HAVE AN APARTMENT AND A SOCIAL LIFE BOTH IN AN EXTREME STATE OF NEGLECT. TONIGHT I INTEND TO PUT THAT RIGHT.
IN A BIG WAY!
FRANKLY, HEATHER HUDSON, YOU COULD DO WITH THE SAME TREATMENT YOU'RE LOOKING QUITE--HOW SHALL I PUT THIS..?
JADED.
THANKS.
STILL... SHE HAS A POINT. GOD, IT'S SO EASY TO BE SUCKED INTO THIS BUSINESS. SOMETIMES I FORGET I HAVE A LIFE BEYOND ALPHA FLIGHT!
TIME THAT CHANGED!


ALGONQUIN PARK, THE LAST REAL EXPANSE OF WILD LAND IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO - WHERE PEOPLE COME TO LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND--
...AND TOUCH A MORE PRIMAL SELF.
MY WHOLE LIFE IS ALPHA FLIGHT.
FACE IT, LANGKOWSKI, YOU'VE LOST TOUCH.
FRIENDS. FAMILY. FAITH. ISN'T THAT WHAT MOTHER USED TO SAY? THE ONLY THREE THINGS A PERSON NEEDS TO PROSPER. HOW TRITE...
HOW TRUE.
ONE BY ONE I'VE LET THEM BE SUBSTITUTED. FRIENDS BECAME COLLEAGUES, FAMILY BECAME ALPHA FLIGHT, AND FAITH... BECAME COLD UNFEELING SCIENCE.
I NEED TO GET BACK TO MY ROOTS
AND WHERE BETTER THAN RIGHT HERE? WASN'T THIS WHERE I ALWAYS CAME...
...WHEN I WANTED TO REDISCOVER WALTER LANGKOWSKI?
THEN THE MAN IS GONE, AND IN HIS PLACE...

.. STANDS SASQUATCH!
YES!
I SEE IT NOW, SEE IT CLEARLY! WHAT I NEED, MORE THAN ANYTHING IS FAITH! WHAT I NEED--
"--IS A SIGN!"
IT BEGINS IN THE WILDS OF ALGONQUIN PARK.
.. AND WITHIN THE WALLS OF DEPARTMENT H.
A VISION IS GRANTED TO THOSE WITH THE SIGHT.
A VISION AND WITH IT A CALL...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARK'S REMARKS

Last year Bill Mantlo, one of Marvel's most prolific writers of the 70s and 80s, was seriously injured by a hit and run driver. He has been hospitalized since then and until recent weeks lay in a coma. He is now undergoing rehabilitative therapy but due to the extensive nature of his injuries, it is not known to what degree Bill will ultimately recover.

Bill created a whole stew of popular characters for Marvel — Cloak and Dagger, Rocket Raccoon, the White Tiger, Jack of Hearts, and Woodgod, to name just a few — and put in memorable stints writing THE MICRONAUTS, ROM, INCREDIBLE HULK, ALPHA FLIGHT, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TEAM-UP, IRON MAN, SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS and at least one issue of every book Marvel had up to that time produced. His writing for Marvel helped finance his way through law school and he was a practicing lawyer at the time of the accident.

Truly Bill left an indelible mark on the Marvel Universe and Marveldom Assembled owes a debt of gratitude to him for sharing his imagination and creativity with us. If you'd like to personally send Bill your best wishes, we know he'd enjoy hearing form you. Address your cards and letters to:

William Mantlo
Gaylord Hospital
Gaylord Farm Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

— Mark Gruenwald

They called it the Blizzard of the Century! It struck last March, hitting harder than Thunderstrike's mace. Of course, it wasn't really the Blizzard of the Century, but the label-happy media had to call it something, and "Terror in the Towers" had already been taken.

The snow fell on some of our own creative flakes pretty hard. Now that we've finally managed to dig them out, let's plow through and see what they had to say.

Inker supreme **Terry Austin**, who is still waiting for the spring thaw, said "I saved the life of a fellow Marvel freelancer! (SILVER SURFER writer) **Ron Marz** was trapped by five-foot drifts in his driveway, so I drove him to the grocery store. I don't know if Ron would agree with me that I saved his life, but thanks to me, he had Rice Krispies in his house that weekend!"

HELLSTORM penciler **Michael Bair** had a cold time in the old town that night. "I went sliding down my stoop," Mike said, "because the snow had turned to ice. Maybe it was the curse of Hellstorm that sent me down the steps!"

Editor **Renee Witterstaetter** said the blizzard hit her like a flurry of new mutant titles. "I was holed up in (SHE HULK inker) **Mike** and **Tracey DeCarlo**'s house," Renee began. I had gone out there for Mike's birthday dinner, and the weather was so bad, I couldn't go home. So I stayed indoors, playing with my new four-week old ferret named Sneakers!" (Rumor has it that Hollywood wants to buy the rights to Renee's snow-bound story of survival, but in the movie version, the ferret gets eaten.)

Proofreader **Jack Abel**, who spent the weekend making snow Arch-angels, said, "I don't have any stories about the Blizzard of '93. But I can tell you an interesting story about the Blizzard of '47. I was stuck in a building, playing cards all night, and the next morning, the snow was so bad, we couldn't leave. So we kept on playing cards."

THE BULL'S EYE
AFTER A HARROWING 36 HOURS, TERRY KAVANAGH RETURNS TO NEW YORK
I MADE IT! I'M BACK! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO HAPPY TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AGAIN! HAHAHAHAHA! I'M HOME—! DO YOU HEAR ME? I'M HOME!

BARBIE editor **Hildy Mesnik** was able to enjoy the blizzard, since she never had to lift a shovel! Said Hildy "I spent the whole day in Central Park. It was beautiful. It was like a fantasyland that day!" (Even the street gangs traded their switchblades for snowballs!)

NIGHTSTALKERS penciler **Kirk Van Wormer** said, "I didn't even know there was a '93 blizzard! Hildy doesn't let me out much."

NOMAD penciler **Patrick Olliffe** didn't do much wandering that weekend. As Pat put it, "I'm against shoveling snow when it's coming down quicker than I can shovel it!" AMAZING SPIDER-MAN penciler **Mark Bagley** said he spent the weekend sliding sleds instead of spinning webs. Adjectiveless SPIDER-MAN artist **Tom Lyle** said he was trapped indoors all weekend, like a fly in a web.

But the worst blizzard horror story of all is that of editor **Terry Kavanagh** who spent 36 straight hours trapped in various airports — enough time to qualify him as a licensed pilot! Terry had been on a ski trip in Aspen, which he said was "great," but his trip back turned into a worse nightmare than those biweekly deadlines on MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS! As Terry put it, "The lowest moment came when I was at Stapleton Airport in Denver. Since my luggage was lost, I had to walk a mile down the road to buy socks and underwear at a truck stop, since I had no clothes!" Reportedly, Hollywood has turned down Terry's story, saying that it's too frightening for small children. The whole experience taught Terry a valuable lesson: "I'm never leaving New York again!" he said. So the next time we have a Blizzard of the Century, save a shovel for Terry!

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #122:** Infinity Crusade tie-in! Plus: **Puck** Alone!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #378:** Spidey, **Venom**, and the **Fantastic Four** make three — er, six!
- ☐ **BARBIE #31:** Time for a little R & R!
- ☐ **DARKHOLD #10:** Would you let a kid named Jinx join your team?
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #39: Vengeance** is after the Spirit of Vengeance!
- ☐ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #38:** An unexpected villain shows up — and no, it's not the Trapster!
- ☐ **INVADERS #3 of 4:** Cap, Namor, and the Torch in World War 2 action... with an attitude!
- ☐ **LANCE BARNES: POST NUKE DICK #4 of 4:** Lance is fighting ex-bankers! That's got our interest!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS #132:** The writing debut of Glenn Greenberg!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #14:** With Mike Rockwitz's **Speedball** story — years in the making!
- ☐ **MIDNIGHT MEN #2 of 4:** One Midnight Man is down! Time to recruit another!
- ☐ **OFFCASTES #1 of 3:** Heavy hitting science fiction!
- ☐ **PENDRAGON 2 #13:** Death's Head 2 plus Pendragon 2 = Action!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #17:** A dam blows up, and Frank blows his fuse!
- ☐ **QUASAR #48:** Battle of the blonds, as **Thunderstrike** battles Quasar!
- ☐ **RAVAGE 2099 #8:** First there was Lee/Kirby. Now there's Lee/Ryan!
- ☐ **REN & STIMPY TPB: RUNNING JOKE:** Reprinting issues 1-4, plus some new fat, bloated stories, you expected.
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #211:** "Red Nails 2: The Next Day!"
- ☐ **SECRET DEFENDERS #5:** The team gets in their licks on Route 66!
- ☐ **SILVER SABLE #14:** Guest-starring **Cage** and **Terror** — and Silver still can't get a date!
- ☐ **SLEEPWALKER #26:** A new origin for Sleepy! (No, he's not from Slumberland!)
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN TPB: ORIGIN OF THE HOBGOBLIN:** Once upon a time, there was a little baby goblin.
- ☐ **WARHEADS: BLACK DAWN #1 of 2:** When **Morbius** & **Ghost Rider** show up, it's flaming, fanging fun!
- ☐ **WILD THING #4:** She'll make everything... groovy!
- ☐ **WOLVERINE #71:** Is **Magneto** really dead? How about Bucky? And what about Gwen Stacy?
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #23:** Wondy makes a deal with the **Grim Reaper!**
- ☐ **WONDER MAN ANNUAL #2:** The **Hit-Maker** steals Wondy's thunder!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #92:** 30th anniversary extravaganza featuring the return of Magn... oops, almost gave it away!
- ☐ **X-MEN ADVENTURES #9:** Colossus debuts, and **Juggernaut** gives him a special welcome!

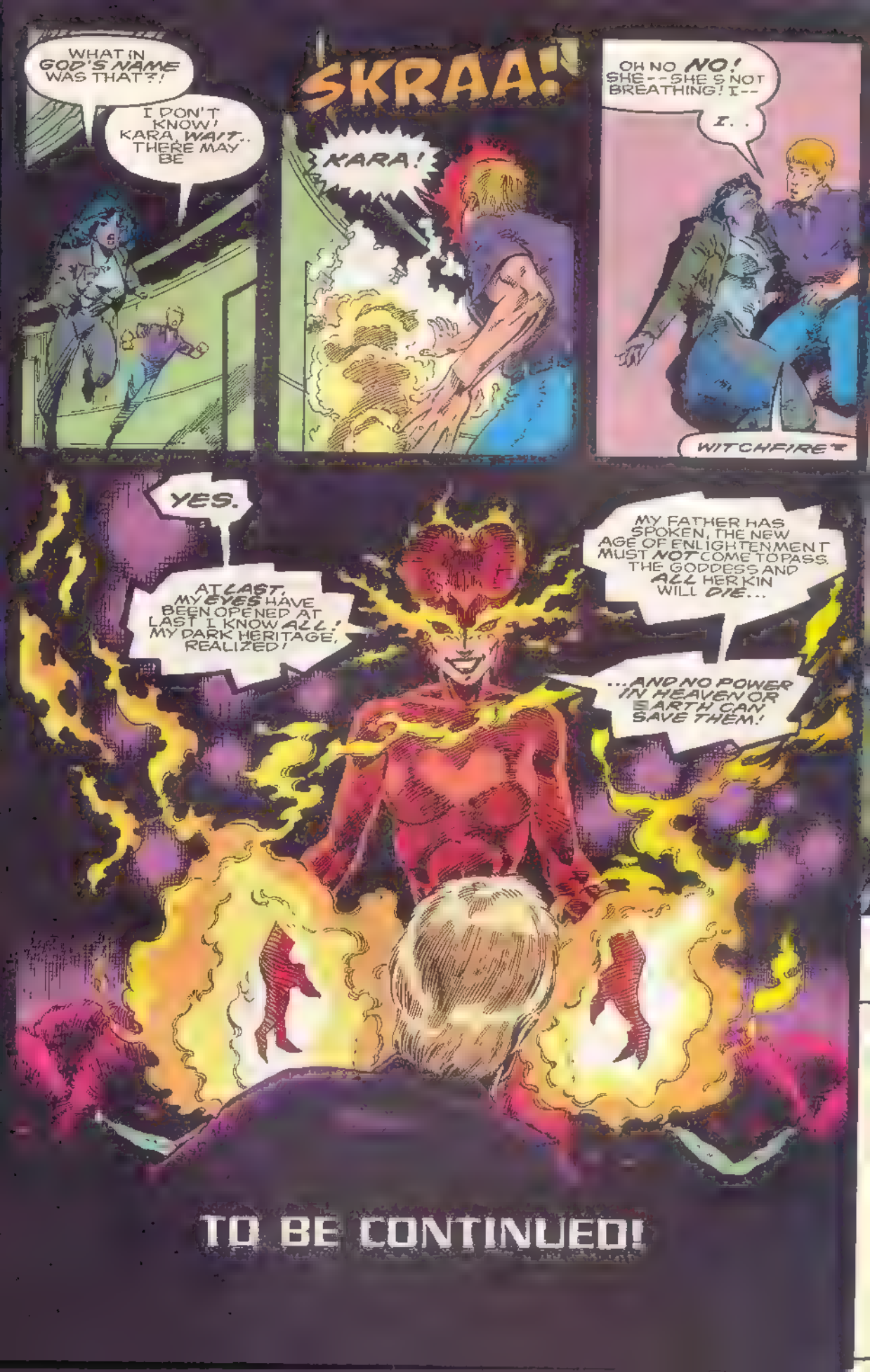
"...A CALL TO ARMS!"
I AM THE GODDESS!
I COME TO TEAR DOWN THE WALL THAT SEPARATES THE HUMAN SPIRIT FROM CELESTIAL BLISS, I COME TO RESCUE MANKIND FROM ETERNAL HELLFIRE!
I ASK YOU- SASQUATCH, WINDSHEAR, PUCK, TALISMAN, SHAMAN-- JOIN ME IN THIS HOLY CALLING WITH YOUR AID I WILL ELIMINATE ALL EVIL FROM THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
REACH OUT FOR THAT MIRACLE, MY CHILDREN--JOIN ME IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE, THE ULTIMATE BATTLE FOR UNIVERSAL ORDER.
WILL YOU BE MY SOLDIERS OF LIGHT? WILL YOU FAITHFULLY SERVE ME?
AND WORLDWIDE THE RESPONSE IS PASSIONATELY CRIED --
"YES!"

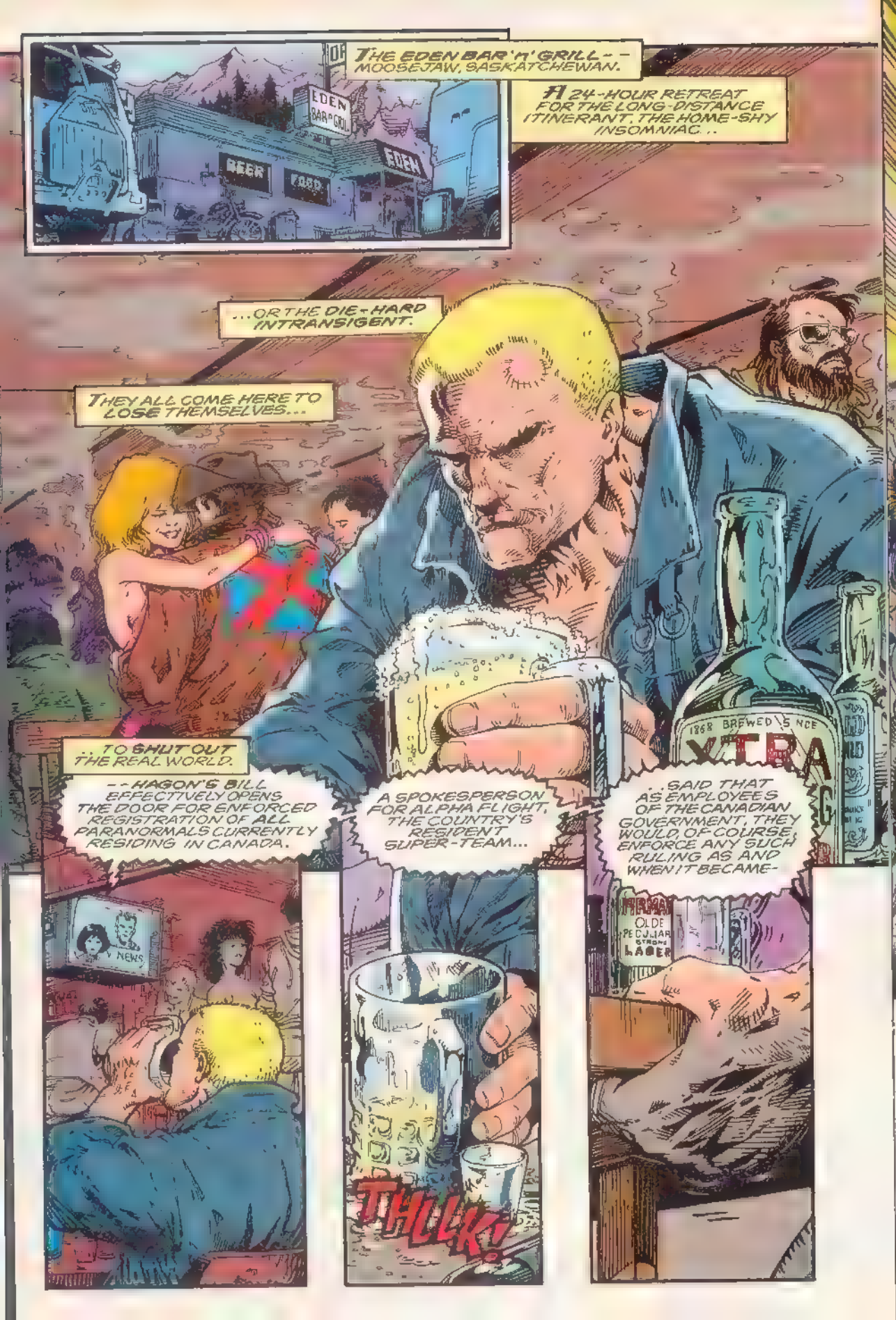
DOWNTOWN TORONTO.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, HEATHER- THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED!
THE COMPANY, THE FOOD...
..AND OF COURSE-- THE DIRT! WALTER AND JEANNE-MARIE, EH? WELL, WELL.
YOU KNOW ME, LIL--LUCKY AT CARDS.
BUT!
THERE IS POTENTIAL.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ANYTHING BREWING?
ANYONE I KNOW?
YE-ES. BUT NO NAMES, NOT UNTIL I'M SURE OF MY OWN FEELINGS. THERE ARE... PROBLEMS!
DO TELL. MADISON AND I.. WELL, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, THINGS AREN'T GOOD.
EVEN WITH YOUR NEW "DO"?
SERIOUSLY, IF YOU WANT TO TALK...
WELL, YES, I GUESS I DO. IT'S JUST ..WE'RE NOT BOX AND DIAMOND LIL NOW. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CIVILIANS. HAPPILY MARRIED MR AND MRS AVERAGE HE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STOP--
RREEEP!
BLAST! SORRY, LIL. GOT TO FIND A PHONE THAT'S THE PANIC BUTTON...

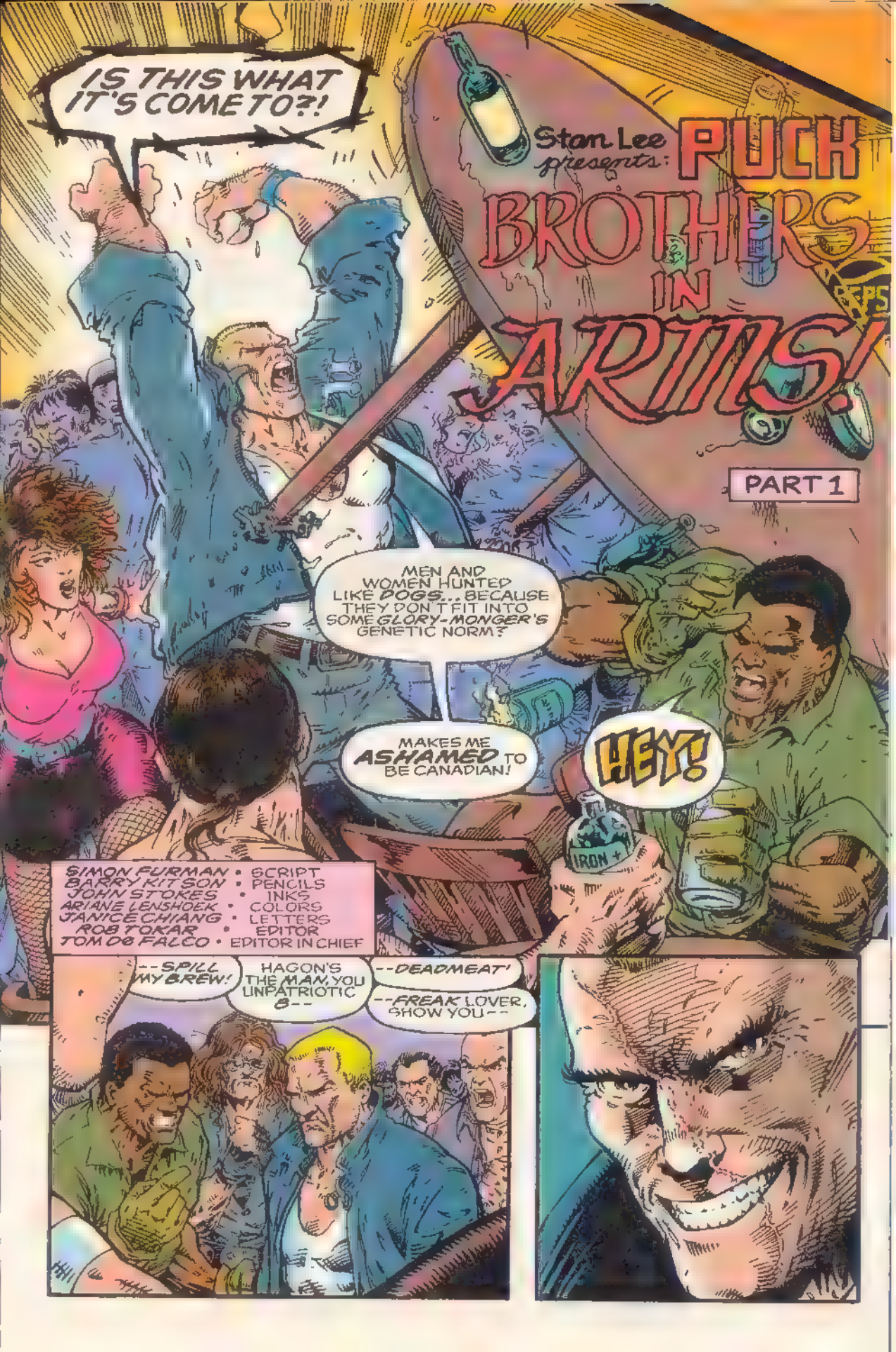
"...SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!"
--THE HECK ARE THEY? PUCK AND THE OTHERS CAN'T JUST HAVE VANISHED!
--HELIJET READY?
--I HAVE THE MESSAGE FROM THE VISION ON TAPE IF YOU WANT TO...
WHAT'S UP?
SOME COSMIC TYPE EMERGENCY IT'S AVENGERS MANSION THIS TIME.
UH HUH. AND LET ME GUESS, WE GET TO STAY HERE AND MIND THE STORE.
RIGHT. TOGETHER NOW--ONE, TWO, THREE...
BO-RING!
SCHOOL..
VIRTUAL REALITY #101. BEGIN WHEN READY...
GO.

HUH? THIS ISN'T ADVANCED GEOMETRY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SKRR-FU!
NO. I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER COMPUTER, TERMINATE PROGRAM! GET US OUT OF HERE!
COMPUTER!
SKRA-
AAAAAH!

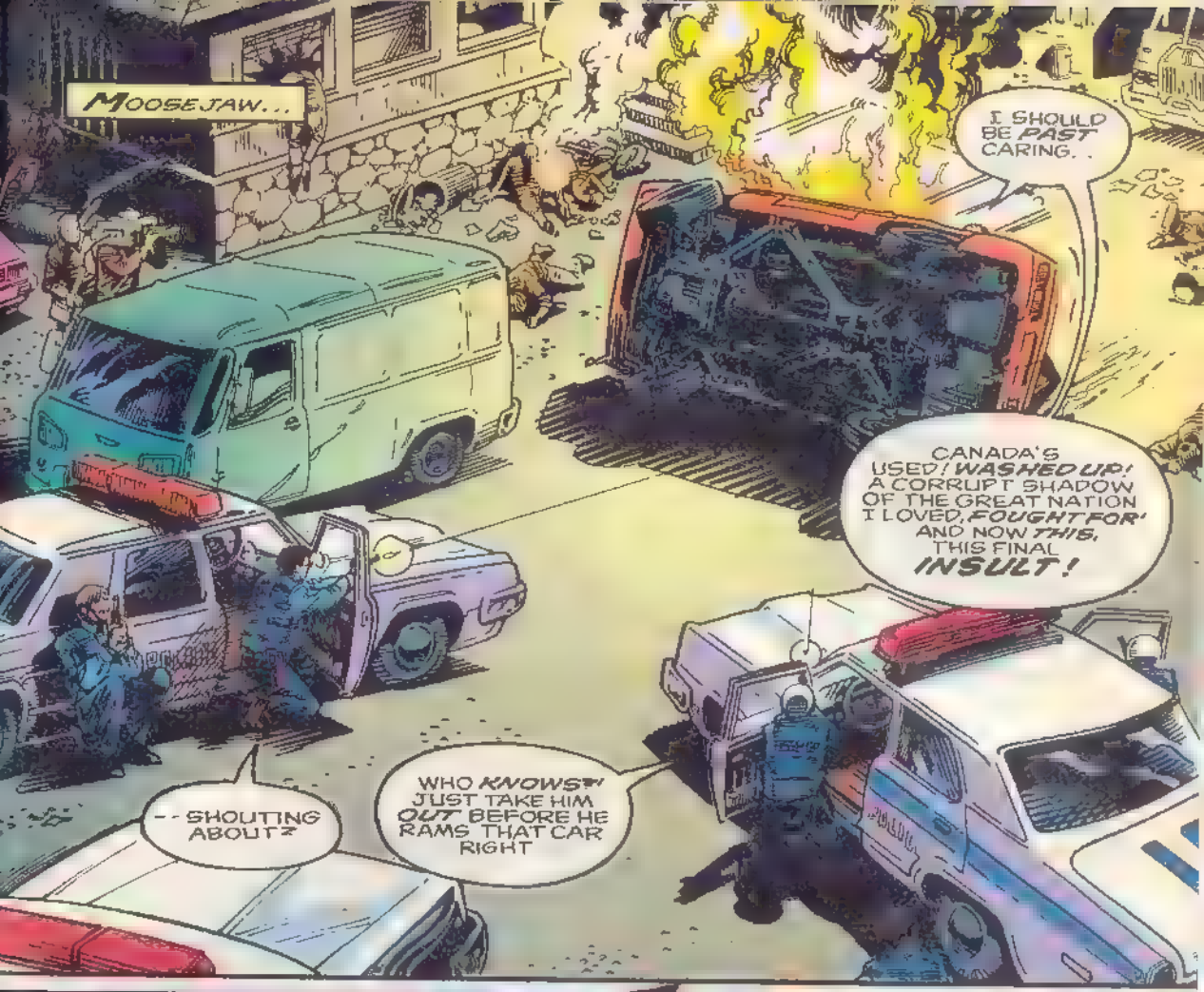
ABOVE .
GONE!
AND YET STILL I REMAIN.
WHY?
I CAN ESCAPE ANY TIME I WISH BUT ESCAPE TO WHAT?
THE HUNT FOR THE BRIBED WAS EVERYTHING, AND NOW IT IS OVER, MY LIFE IS EMPTY MEANINGLESS!
HUH?
HM. I DON'T EVEN HAVE A HOME JUST A SERIES OF STERILE WAR BASES THAT NO LONGER SERVE A PURPOSE
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
OH. IT'S YOU-
SKRAA
AAAAH!


WHAT IN GOD'S NAME WAS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW! KARA, WAIT.. THERE MAY BE
SKRAA!
KARA!
OH NO NO! SHE--SHE'S NOT BREATHING! I--
I..
WITCHFIRE
YES.
AT LAST, MY EYES HAVE BEEN OPENED AT LAST I KNOW ALL! MY DARK HERITAGE, REALIZED!
MY FATHER HAS SPOKEN, THE NEW AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT MUST NOT COME TO PASS. THE GODDESS AND ALL HER KIN WILL DIE...
...AND NO POWER IN HEAVEN OR EARTH CAN SAVE THEM!
TO BE CONTINUED!

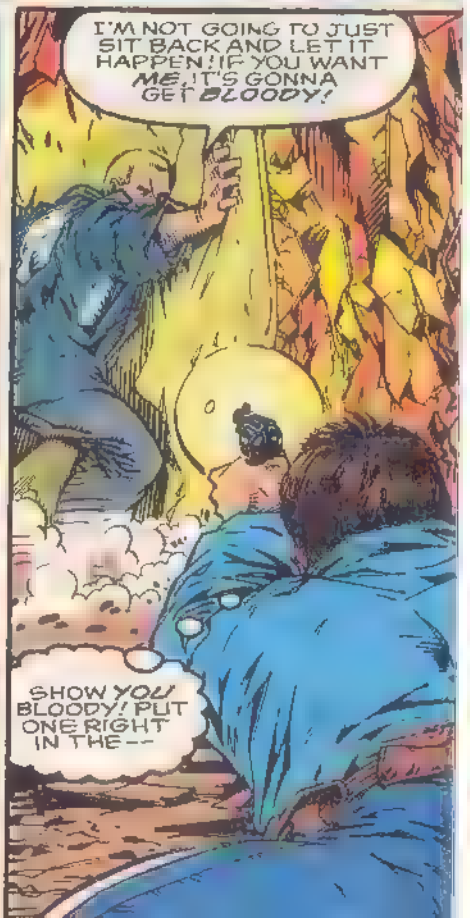

THE EDEN BAR 'n' GRILL -- MOOSEJAW, SASKATCHEWAN.
A 24-HOUR RETREAT FOR THE LONG-DISTANCE ITINERANT, THE HOME-SHY INSOMNIAC...
EDEN BAR-B-GRIL
BEER
FOOD
EDEN
...OR THE DIE-HARD INTRANSIGENT.
THEY ALL COME HERE TO LOSE THEMSELVES...
...TO SHUT OUT THE REAL WORLD.
--HAGON'S BILL EFFECTIVELY OPENS THE DOOR FOR ENFORCED REGISTRATION OF ALL PARANORMALS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN CANADA.
A SPOKESPERSON FOR ALPHA FLIGHT, THE COUNTRY'S RESIDENT SUPER-TEAM...
...SAID THAT AS EMPLOYEES OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, THEY WOULD, OF COURSE, ENFORCE ANY SUCH RULING AS AND WHEN IT BECAME-
1868 BREWED SINCE
XTRA
OLDE PECULIAR STRONG LAGER
NEWS
THLLK!


IS THIS WHAT IT'S COME TO?!
Stan Lee presents: PUCK
BROTHERS IN ARMS!
PART 1
MEN AND WOMEN HUNTED LIKE DOGS... BECAUSE THEY DON'T FIT INTO SOME GLORY-MONGER'S GENETIC NORM?
MAKES ME ASHAMED TO BE CANADIAN!
HEY!
IRON
SIMON FURMAN • SCRIPT
BARRY KITSON • PENCILS
JOHN STOKES • INKS
ARIANE LENSHOEK • COLORS
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERS
ROB TOKAR • EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF
--SPILL MY BREW!
HAGON'S THE MAN, YOU UNPATRIOTIC B--
--DEADMEAT!
--FREAK LOVER, SHOW YOU--

DEPARTMENT H.
ALPHA FLIGHT HEADQUARTERS.
--REPORT LARGE SCALE DISTURBANCE STOP REQUEST FILE SEARCH/ EVALUATION STOP. ACTION?
PUCK?
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE PRIOR TO INFINITY CRUSADE #1
WHAT HAVE WE GOT?
BAR FIGHT IN MOOSEJAW. STANDARD POLICE CHECK. THEY WANT TO KNOW IF THEY'RE DEALING WITH A PARANORMAL
AND? ARE THEY?
YES.
GUARDIAN, I'D LIKE TO HANDLE THIS ONE.
ALONE.
EUGENE... I'D NEVER PRY. I RESPECT YOU TOO MUCH FOR THAT. BUT ... YOU NEVER TALK. ABOUT YOUR PAST; ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE, WHO YOU WERE BEFORE WE MET.
THIS MAN HE'S PART OF THAT PAST, ISN'T HE?
HEATHER. .
HE IS MY PAST!


MOOSEJAW...
I SHOULD BE PAST CARING...
CANADA'S USED! WASHED UP! A CORRUPT SHADOW OF THE GREAT NATION I LOVED, FOUGHT FOR! AND NOW THIS, THIS FINAL INSULT!
--SHOUTING ABOUT?
WHO KNOWS?! JUST TAKE HIM OUT BEFORE HE RAMS THAT CAR RIGHT

SKRENCH!
I SHOULDN'T CARE...
BUT GOD HELP ME, I DO!


I'M NOT GOING TO JUST SIT BACK AND LET IT HAPPEN! IF YOU WANT ME, IT'S GONNA GET BLOODY!
SHOW YOU BLOODY! PUT ONE RIGHT IN THE--

"--GAS TANK?!"
BDOOM!
SKRASH!!
AAA--
- THAT'S BETTER!
REDUCED DRAPES $35.00 P.P.
OKAY BOYS.. I'M READY FOR MORE!
NO. NO MORE.
IT'S OVER, CLEFT. IT ISN'T HELPING ANYONE.
LEAST OF ALL YOURSELF.
PUCK? THAT REALLY YOU?

MEH. I HEARD YOU'D GONE ESTABLISHMENT. NEVER REALLY BELIEVED IT
IN FACT, I'M BETTIN' YOU'RE STILL AS WILD AS YOU EVER WERE-!
NO, CLEFT. WHEN HEATHER HUDSON DRAGGED ME OUT OF THAT JAIL SHE ALSO DRAGGED ME OUT OF A MIRE OF BARS AND BRAWLS. THOSE DAYS ARE OVER, FINISHED.
I DON'T BUY THAT TOGETHER THE FOUR OF US FORGED BONDS THAT NO BADGE OR UNIFORM COULD EVER BREAK
DEEP DOWN, WHERE IT COUNTS, YOU'RE STILL ONE OF US!
BLAST IT. IN CHARGE, ONLY MINIMAL BACK-UP, HEATHER WENT OUT ON A LIMB HERE, SHE TRUSTED ME, AND YET
...CLEFT'S RIGHT. THERE'S A LOT OF HISTORY BETWEEN US. ALMOST AN UNWRITTEN CODE. ALPHA'S CURRENT BRIEF IS TO BRING IN ALL UNREGISTERED PARANORMALS, AND CLEFT'S CERTAINLY THAT. I... JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT!
WILDHEART, NORTHSTAR...
TAKE HIM DOWN!

WITH PLEASURE!
THAK!
UUU!
PUCK! YOU LOUSY SON OF A--
THOOM!
WHAT THE--?
OH.
OH NO.
SAME THING EVERY YEAR, EH, DEPTH CHARGE? EVERY TIME WE GET TOGETHER THE OLD MAN GOES AND STARTS WITHOUT US
SURE, AN' OF COURSE, IT'S ALWAYS DOWN TO US TO HAUL HIS FAT OUTTA THE FIRE. EVEN IF THIS TIME..
...THAT INCLUDES WASTING PUCK, OUR OLD BROTHER-IN ARMS!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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AN INFINITY CROSSOVER CRUSADE
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NEXT ISSUE:
"HOLY TERROR"
PART 2 OF 3 -- DEPARTMENT H BECOMES A TOWERING INFERNO OF WITCHFIRE!

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MOON KNIGHT
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SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE MARC SPECTOR DIED-BUT WAS MIRACULOUSLY REBORN IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR DEDICATED HIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN A WORLD THAT HAS NONE. STAN LEE PRESENTS.
MARC SPECTOR
MOON KNIGHT
PHALKONCORP...
...AS YOU MUST RECOGNIZE BY NOW.
YOU ARE...NOT... MARC SPECTOR!
NOT YET--
SPECTORCORP IS--AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN THE RIGHTFUL LEGACY OF SETH PHALKON, MOON KNIGHT...
--BUT THIS IS FAMILY BUSINESS!
SHRRK
THEN A REUNION IS IN ORDER, SETH...
...BECAUSE WE JUST GOT REAL PERSONAL!
THIS IS CERTAINLY A SURPRISE-- MARC SPECTOR HIMSELF--
--THE VERY LAST OF MY CURSED LINE.

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ASSUMING THERE IS TRUTH IN WHAT YOU SAY...
...WHAT WOULD THAT MAKE YOU?
YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER, MARCUS...
...MANY, MANY TIMES OVER.
RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, PHALKON--
--YOU'RE HISTORY!
WHUD
THE RESEMBLANCE IS MORE THAN SKIN DEEP, BOY...
...MY BLOOD FLOWS DEEPER IN YOUR VEINS THAN YOU COULD KNOW.
DON'T ADD INSULT TO INJURY, MURDERER...
THOOZ
...I'M MORE OF A MAN THAN YOU'LL EVER BE.
EXACTLY WHY I WILL SOON BE MARC SPECTOR...

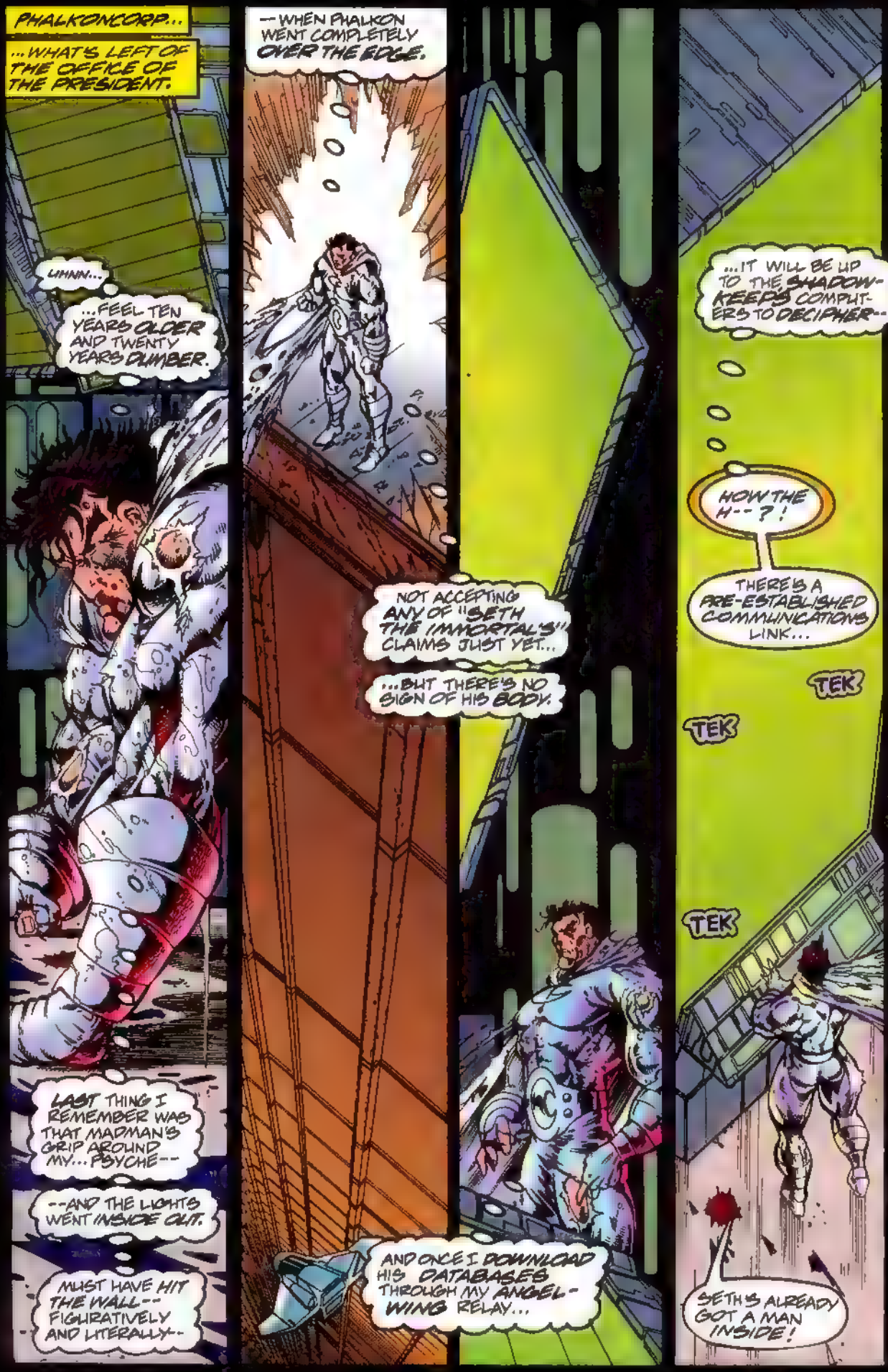
SKRAK
...AND YOU WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A DEAD RINGER!
I WON'T BE AS EASY AS YOUR LAST VICTIMS --
TWO OF MY EMPLOYEES WHO WERE JUST DOING THEIR JOBS!
KWOP
YOU COME FROM HARDY STOCK, MARCUS...
...BUT CRUZ AND CRAY WERE MERELY APPE-TIZERS.*
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE MAIN COURSE...
...AND WITH THE FINAL CONSUMP-TION OF YOUR TAINTED LIFE-FORCE, SETH THE IMMORTAL WILL BE FAR MORE THAN MARC SPECTOR EVER --
>UKKE
BIO-FEEDBACK INTERFER--
* SEE LAST ISH -- SARRA

TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER	STEPHEN PLATT PENCILER	SCOTT KOBLISH INKER	DANA MORESHEAD COLORIST	LORETTA KROL LORETTERER	SARRA MOSSOFF EDITOR	TOM DeFALCO C.E.O.

MOONKNIGHT'S SHADOWKEEP...
AS I EXPLAINED WHEN I ARRIVED, SIGMUND--
--I WOULD REALLY PREFER TO BE ALONE.
AND I PREFER TO BE ADDRESSED AS ROBERT--DR. PLESKO, IF YOU MUST--
--WHILE I AWAIT THE RETURN OF... OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.
MOON KNIGHT IS YOUR PATIENT, DR.--
MARC SPECTOR IS MY PATIENT, MISTER DUCHAMP..
...THE DISTINCTION IS ACTUALLY QUITE SIG-NIFICANT
IT INDICATES THAT ONE OF US IS LEARNING TO TRUST AGAIN--IN YOU, AT LEAST--BUT...
SEARCH... PIERRE LATREC BORN: 1784, RENNES-LES CHATEAUX
CONVICTED: 22 MURDERS (SEE: VICTIMS)
DIED: 1819, ARLES SANITARIUM
SURVIVED BY: CHARLETTE LATREC, YVES DUCHAMP
SACRE...
...IT'S ALL TOO TRUE!
APPARENTLY I AM INTRUDING SO--
ARRET, DOCTOR...
...WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE JUST SEEN.
YOU NEED TO TALK, JEAN-PAUL...
...MY SPECIALTY IS LISTENING.
MARC AND I HAVE... GROWN APART LATELY, PLESKO, AND I HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT HIS LOYAL SHADOW CABINET AGENT WON'T--
AND I ASSUME YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THE RECENT...ACCIDENT THAT LED TO THIS DISTANCING.
MY PROFESSIONAL ETHICS ARE BINDING, MISTER DUCHAMP--
NO.
THIS IS ABOUT A MAN CALLED BLOODLINE--

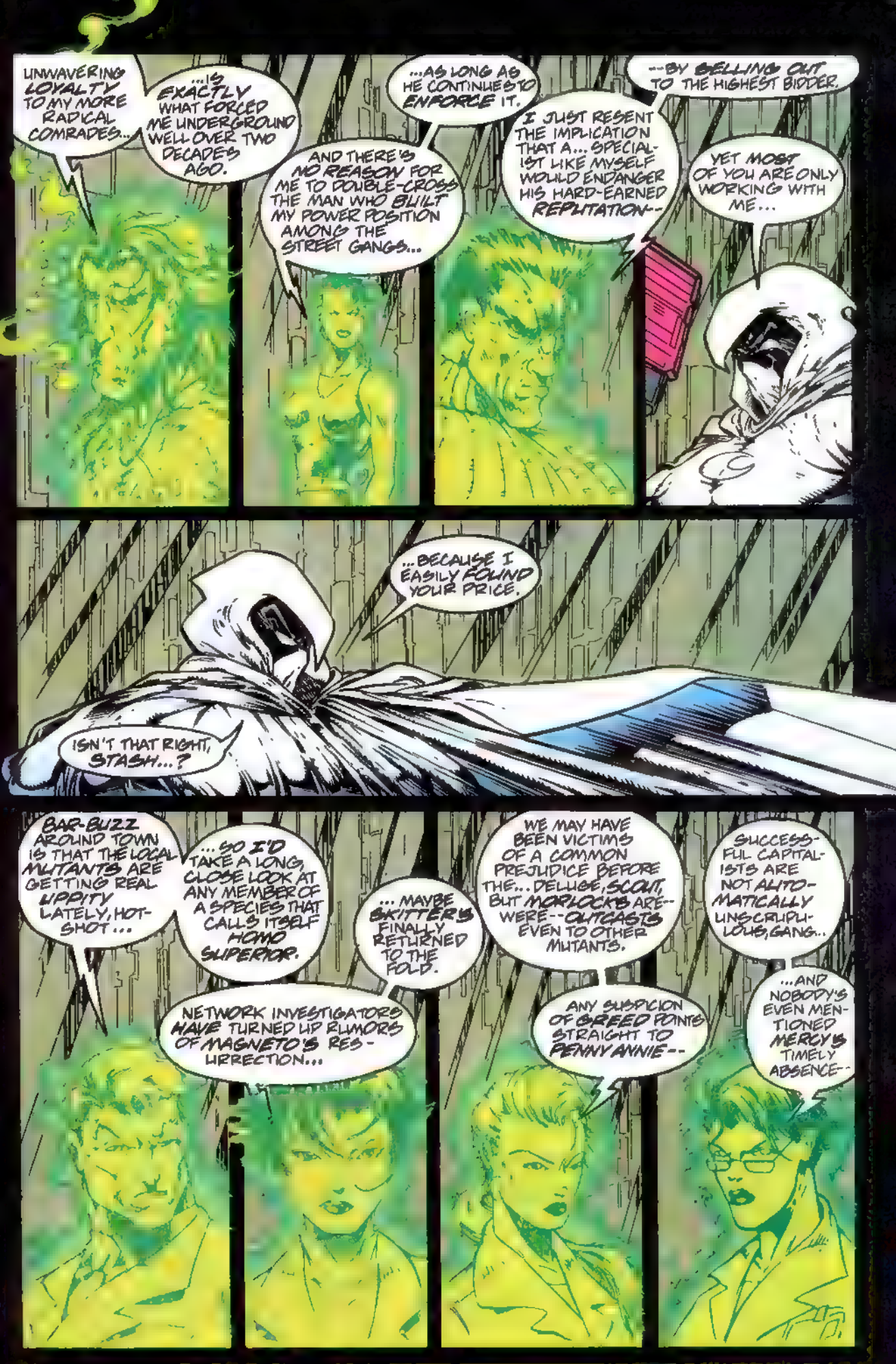
--AN UNWILLING HERO WHO'S JUST DISCOVERED THAT HIS MIND IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CRYPT OF DANGEROUS ANCESTORS WITH THE UNCONTROLLABLE ABILITY TO LITERALLY POSSESS HIM...
...CRIPPLED BODY AND SOUL.
I SEE.
AND SETH, A SHADOWY VILLAIN WHO COMMANDS A REBEL FACTION OF THE HELLBENT, WHO ARE A LOST SPECIES OF DEMON-HUMAN HYBRIDS.
SETH'S MINIONS ARE AFTER THE SECRET TO THE MYSTERIOUS POWER OF THE ARCANE ARCHIVES WHICH THEY BELIEVE IS BURIED DEEP IN BLOODLINE'S HISTORY.
NOT TO MENTION THE ANCIENT SECRET SOCIETY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS THAT STARTED THIS WHOLE THING--
--AND...
AND...?
"AND THERE'S A...WOMAN."
BEWARE, CADRE--
VROOSH
CHT CHT
BUT ALSO DEFLECTING SHARD'S BARRAGE, VORTEX...
...LEAVING DEMENTIA TOTALLY UNPROTECTED
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A TEMPLAR BORN!
MY GUSTS ARE HERDING YOU RIGHT IN, CHLOE--
TIA...!?
OUR SISTER WILL NOT BE HARMED AGAIN!

WHAAT--?!
STOP FIRING, ARO... ...SHE LURED YOU RIGHT INTO MY WIND-SWEEP!
VROOSH
DEMENTIA'S CATATONIC CONDITION--
...IS DUE TO THIS VERY RECK-LESSNESS.
WE HAD TO COME TO NEW YORK TO FIND OUR HUMAN MOTHER, TEMPLAR... *
...WE'RE FAMILY.
* WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #9, --Sarra
VOR, LOOK OUT--
--BELOW!
AND NOW YOU NEED TO BECOME A TEAM, CADRE...
...IF WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THIS BATTLE HOME TO HELLHOLE.
POOM
YOUR FELLOW HELLBENT SLAUGHTERED THE TEMPLARS THAT SHELTERED YOU FROM BIRTH...
...AND YOU JUST MAY FIND YOUR OWN FATHER AMONG THE KILLERS.


PHALKONCORP...
...WHAT'S LEFT OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.
UHNN...
...FEEL TEN YEARS OLDER AND TWENTY YEARS DUMBER.
LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS THAT MADMAN'S GRIP AROUND MY... PSYCHE--
--AND THE LIGHTS WENT INSIDE OUT.
MUST HAVE HIT THE WALL-- FIGURATIVELY AND LITERALLY--
--WHEN PHALKON WENT COMPLETELY OVER THE EDGE.
NOT ACCEPTING ANY OF "SETH THE IMMORTAL'S" CLAIMS JUST YET...
...BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIS BODY.
AND ONCE I DOWNLOAD HIS DATABASES THROUGH MY ANGEL-WING RELAY...
...IT WILL BE UP TO THE SHADOW-KEEPS COMPUTERS TO DECIPHER--
HOW THE H--?!
THERE'S A PRE-ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATIONS LINK...
TEK
TEK
TEK
SETH'S ALREADY GOT A MAN INSIDE!

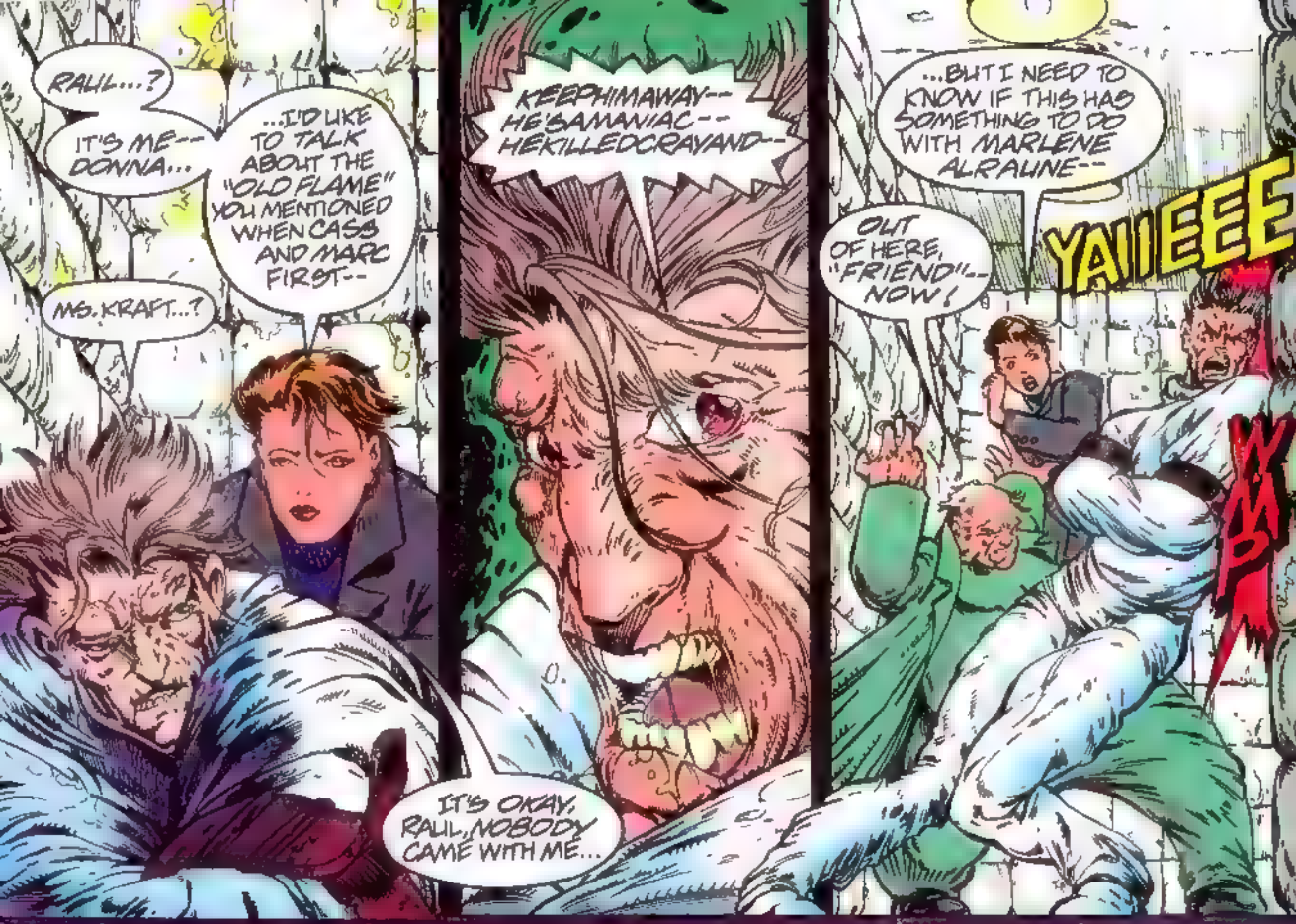
THE SHADOWKEEP...
EVERY MEMBER OF MY SHADOW CABINET SHARES LIMITED ACCESS TO THESE SYSTEMS AND ONE OF THEM HAS ALREADY BETRAYED ME.
SIGMUND -- Dr. Robert Plesko
SHARK -- Cass Brennen
SHERIFF -- Lieutenant Jaime Vasquez
SCOUT -- Kim Hong
FINGERS -- Thomas Haney
COVER GIRL -- Zena Z.
STASH -- Rich Conners
SKITTER -- (Morlock Designation)
PENNY ANNIE -- Colleen Shore
JUNIOR BIRDMAN -- Warren Tork
PSYCHO -- Peter Slate (INACTIVE)
MERCY -- Dr. Hannah Trumbell
WITHOUT JEAN-PAUL'S HELP IT COULD TAKE WEEKS TO PROCESS THE PHALKONCORD FILES I STOLE...
...BUT HE LOGGED OFF AN HOUR BEFORE I GOT BACK AND THERE'S STILL NO RESPONSE FROM HIS SUITE.
...THE RINGS' EMERGENCY PULSES WILL GIVE THEM ALL THIRTY SECONDS TO FIND PRIVACY--
--BEFORE ACTIVATING THEIR HOLO-JECTION OVERRIDES.
SO I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER...
BRZZT
BRZZT
--MY NEAR BUZZED MY FINGER OFF.
--LL THE NERVE!
--MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
BRZZT
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, SILVER?
AND WHEN DID WE LOSE OUR SAY IN THE MATTER?!
JUST CONSIDER THIS THE CABINET'S FIRST--AND LAST--COMMAND PERFORMANCE...

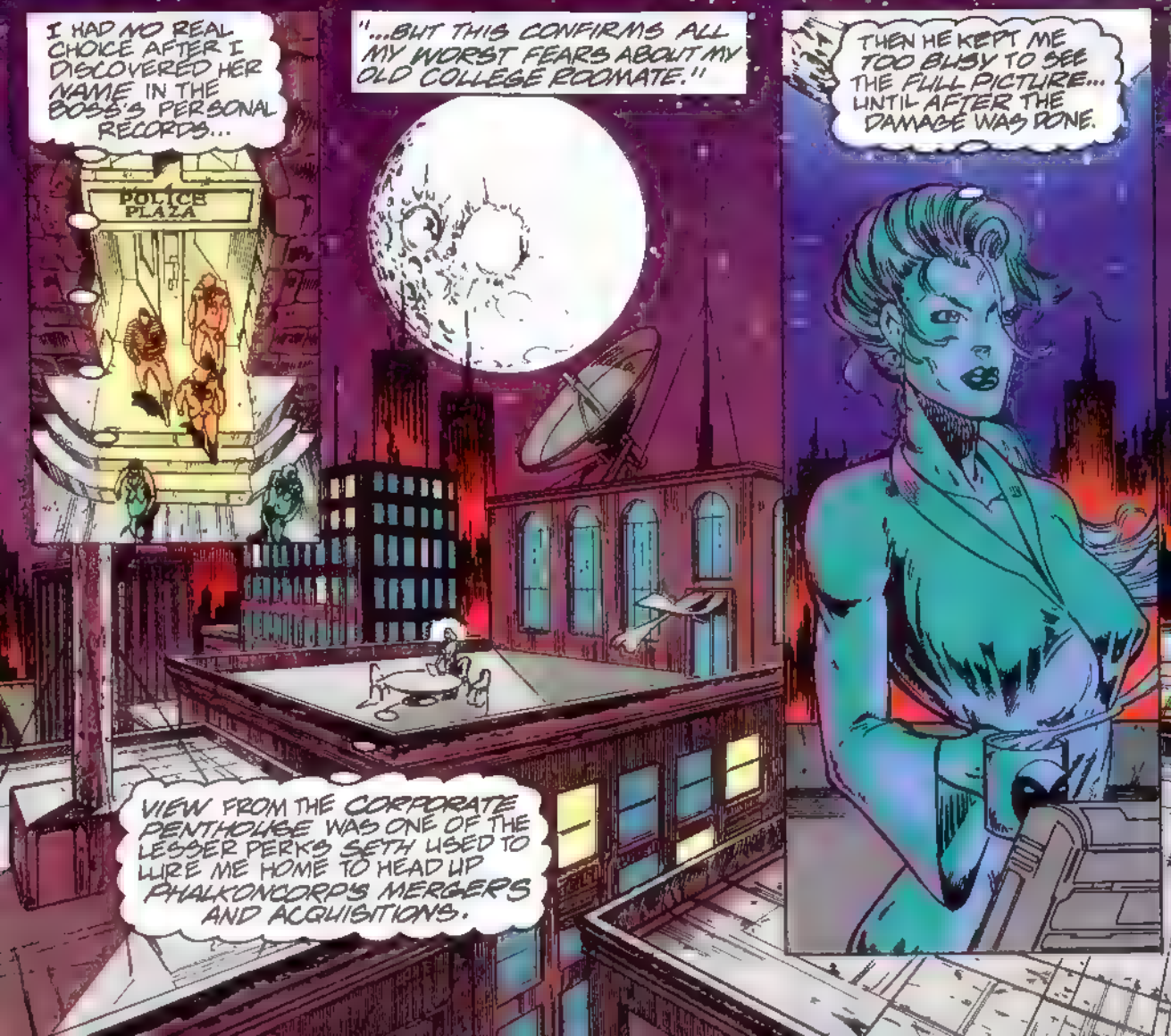
...UNTIL WE UNCOVER THE TRAITOR IN YOUR MIDST!
NOT. POSSIBLE...
...I HELPED YOU SCREEN THE CABINET CANDIDATES MYSELF.
COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SELECTIVE, SHARK--
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO ME AGAIN, SHERIFF--
ONE AT A TIME...
...STARTING WITH THE MAN I LEFT ALONE IN THE SHADOW-KEEP EARLIER
SIGMUND...?
YOUR LIFESTYLE IS LEADING TO NEW DEPTHS OF PARANOIA, HERO--
I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU'RE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN SOME LEGAL DEALINGS WITH PHALKONCORP, SHARK...
UNDER ORDERS FROM...MY EMPLOYER--
--BUT I'VE HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH SETH PHALKON.
SHERIFF EXHIBITED A CERTAIN DISAPPROVAL OF MY ACTIONS RECENTLY...
DON'T EVEN TRY THAT GARBAGE WITH ME AFTER THE CAREER RISKS I'VE TAKEN FOR YOUR VIGILANTE VISION OF JUSTICE--
--WHILE YOU WORK WITH A JUVENILE DELINQUENT LIKE COVER GIRL...
HEY--!
...AND A CONVICTED SECOND-STORY MAN THAT PROUDLY CALLS HIMSELF "FINGERS."
I'VE SERVED MY TIME...!
AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT JUNIOR BIRDMAN IS STILL A WANTED CRIMINAL IN CALIFORNIA--


UNWAVERING LOYALTY TO MY MORE RADICAL COMRADES...
...IS EXACTLY WHAT FORCED ME UNDERGROUND WELL OVER TWO DECADES AGO.
AND THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO DOUBLE-CROSS THE MAN WHO BUILT MY POWER POSITION AMONG THE STREET GANGS...
...AS LONG AS HE CONTINUES TO ENFORCE IT.
I JUST RESENT THE IMPLICATION THAT A... SPECIALIST LIKE MYSELF WOULD ENDANGER HIS HARD-EARNED REPUTATION--
--BY SELLING OUT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.
YET MOST OF YOU ARE ONLY WORKING WITH ME...
...BECAUSE I EASILY FOUND YOUR PRICE.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, STASH...?
BAR-BUZZ AROUND TOWN IS THAT THE LOCAL MUTANTS ARE GETTING REAL UPPITY LATELY, HOT-SHOT...
...SO I'D TAKE A LONG, CLOSE LOOK AT ANY MEMBER OF A SPECIES THAT CALLS ITSELF HOMO SUPERIOR.
NETWORK INVESTIGATORS HAVE TURNED UP RUMORS OF MAGNETO'S RESURRECTION...
...MAYBE SKITTER'S FINALLY RETURNED TO THE FOLD.
WE MAY HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF A COMMON PREJUDICE BEFORE THE... DELUGE, SCOUT, BUT MORLOCKS ARE-- WERE-- OUTCASTS EVEN TO OTHER MUTANTS.
ANY SUSPICION OF GREED POINTS STRAIGHT TO PENNY ANNIE--
SUCCESSFUL CAPITALISTS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY UNSCRUPULOUS, GANG...
...AND NOBODY'S EVEN MENTIONED MERCY'S TIMELY ABSENCE--

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I CHOOSE NOT TO BOTHER HER..
...FOR OUR FINAL MEETING.
WHAT--?!
BUT--
SELF-DESTRUCT FAIL-SAFE IN THEIR RINGS...
...INSURES THAT THE SHADOW CABINET IS JUST ANOTHER FAILED EXPERIMENT.
BRZZT
BOUND TO EARN ME SOME NEW ENEMIES...
...BUT I CAN'T RISK PROLONGED CONTACT WITH ANYONE UNTIL THE COMPUTER MATCHES A NAME FROM SETH'S FILES TO--
BREEP
--THE VIPER IN OUR MIDST!?
JHSBJDHJDKJSDKVUSDHLXCBP;DI HJ DFGHDFGJULSZGVNX,.K,JXD,S
MARLENE ALRAUNE
JHSBJDHJDKJSDKVUSDHLXCBP;DI HJ DFGHDFGJULSZGVNX,.K,JXD,S
MARLENE--!?

ABOVE THE SHADOWKEEP..
THIS IS MY PRIVATE WING, AGONY...
YOU CAN TALK--OR SCREAM--FREELY.
THE SAVAGE BLOOD-LINE THAT CAPTURED ME WAS ACTUALLY A POTENTIAL THREAT, DUCHAMP..
...BUT A HELL-BENT PRIME HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HALF A MAN.
I DO NOT NEED PIERRE LATREC TO GET TO THE TRUTH ABOUT SETH, AGONY...
...A THINKING MAN ALWAYS HAS OTHER OPTIONS.
ONE POLICE PLAZA...
...WHERE SETH PHALKON'S LAST VICTIM IS BEING HELD.
SEDATIVES ARE KEEPING MR. CRUZ UNDER CONTROL FOR THE MOMENT...
...BUT FINDING WHAT'S LEFT OF SPECTORCORP'S LITTLE OFFICE BOY IN THE COMPETITION'S LOCKED BUILDING AFTER-HOURS--ALONGSIDE THE CORPSE OF HIS PARTNER-IN-CRIME--
TODAY'S MY DAY OFF, DOCTOR--
--I'M HERE AS A... FRIEND.
--LEAVES YOU WITH ONE NASTY LITTLE PUBLIC RELATIONS MESS, DOESN'T IT, MS. KRAFT?


RAUL...?
IT'S ME-- DONNA...
...I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE "OLD FLAME" YOU MENTIONED WHEN CASS AND MARC FIRST--
MS. KRAFT...?
KEEP HIM AWAY-- HE'S A MANIAC-- HE KILLED CRAY AND--
IT'S OKAY, RAUL, NOBODY CAME WITH ME...
...BUT I NEED TO KNOW IF THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH MARLENE ALRAUNE--
OUT OF HERE, "FRIEND"-- NOW!
YAIIEEE
WHAM

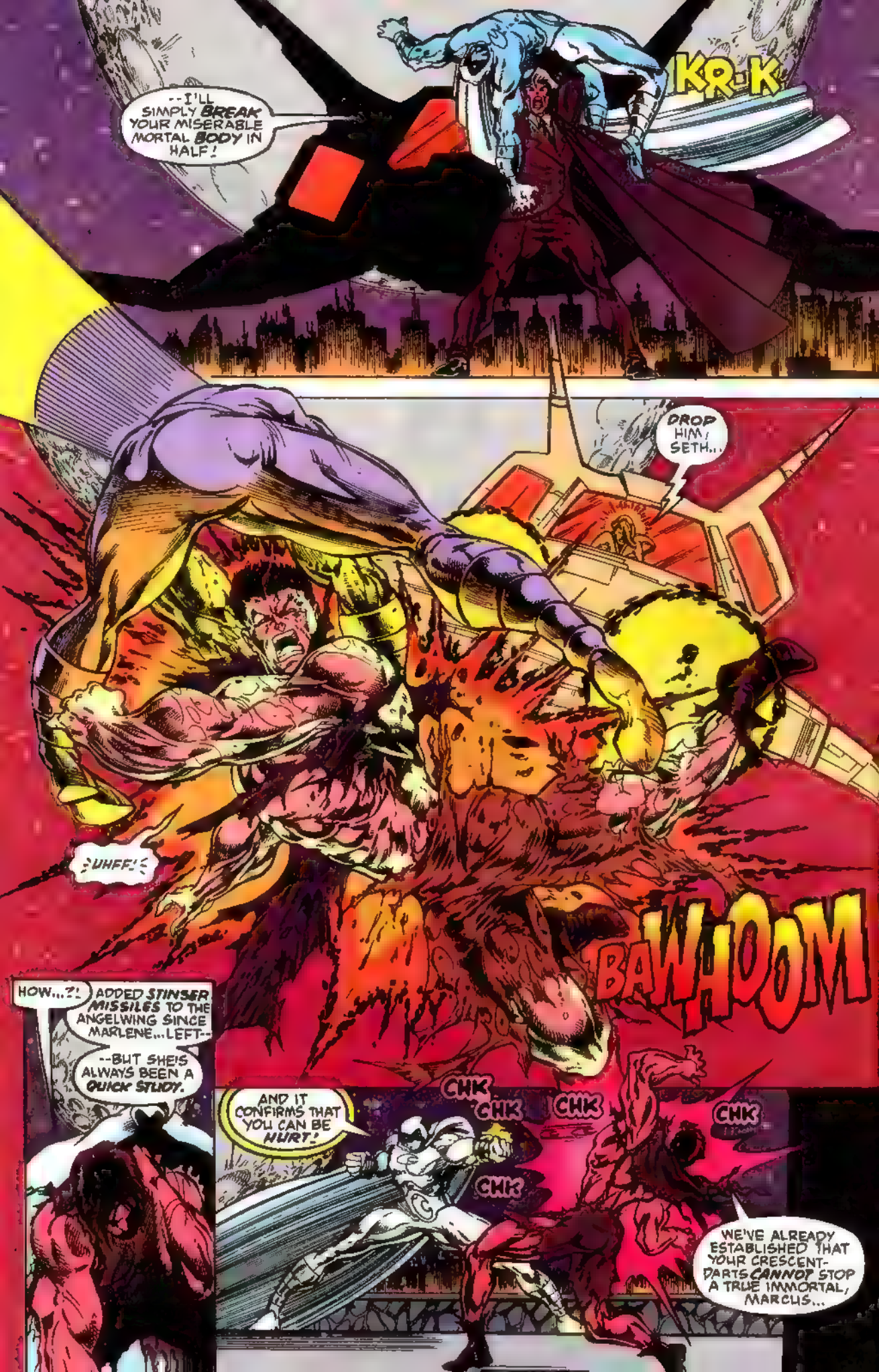

I HAD NO REAL CHOICE AFTER I DISCOVERED HER NAME IN THE BOSS'S PERSONAL RECORDS...
POLICE PLAZA
"...BUT THIS CONFIRMS ALL MY WORST FEARS ABOUT MY OLD COLLEGE ROOMATE."
THEN HE KEPT ME TOO BUSY TO SEE THE FULL PICTURE... UNTIL AFTER THE DAMAGE WAS DONE.
VIEW FROM THE CORPORATE PENTHOUSE WAS ONE OF THE LESSER PERKS SETH USED TO LURE ME HOME TO HEAD UP PHALKONCORP'S MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS.

NOW THERE'S NO REST FOR THE WICKED...
FINALIZE TRANSFERS...
FROM: SPECTORCORP SUBSIDIARIES LS-T8
TO: PHALKONCORP HOLDING COMPANY G9
DEDICATED ACCESS ONLY: MARLENE ALRAUNE
TEK
TEK
TEK
...AND I'M BEING VERY, VERY WICKED INDEED.
MARLENE...
MARC--!?
...I'M TRULY SORRY IT HAD TO COME TO THIS.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND ME?!
I WASN'T-- I'M NOT-- PREPARED FOR THIS... YET.

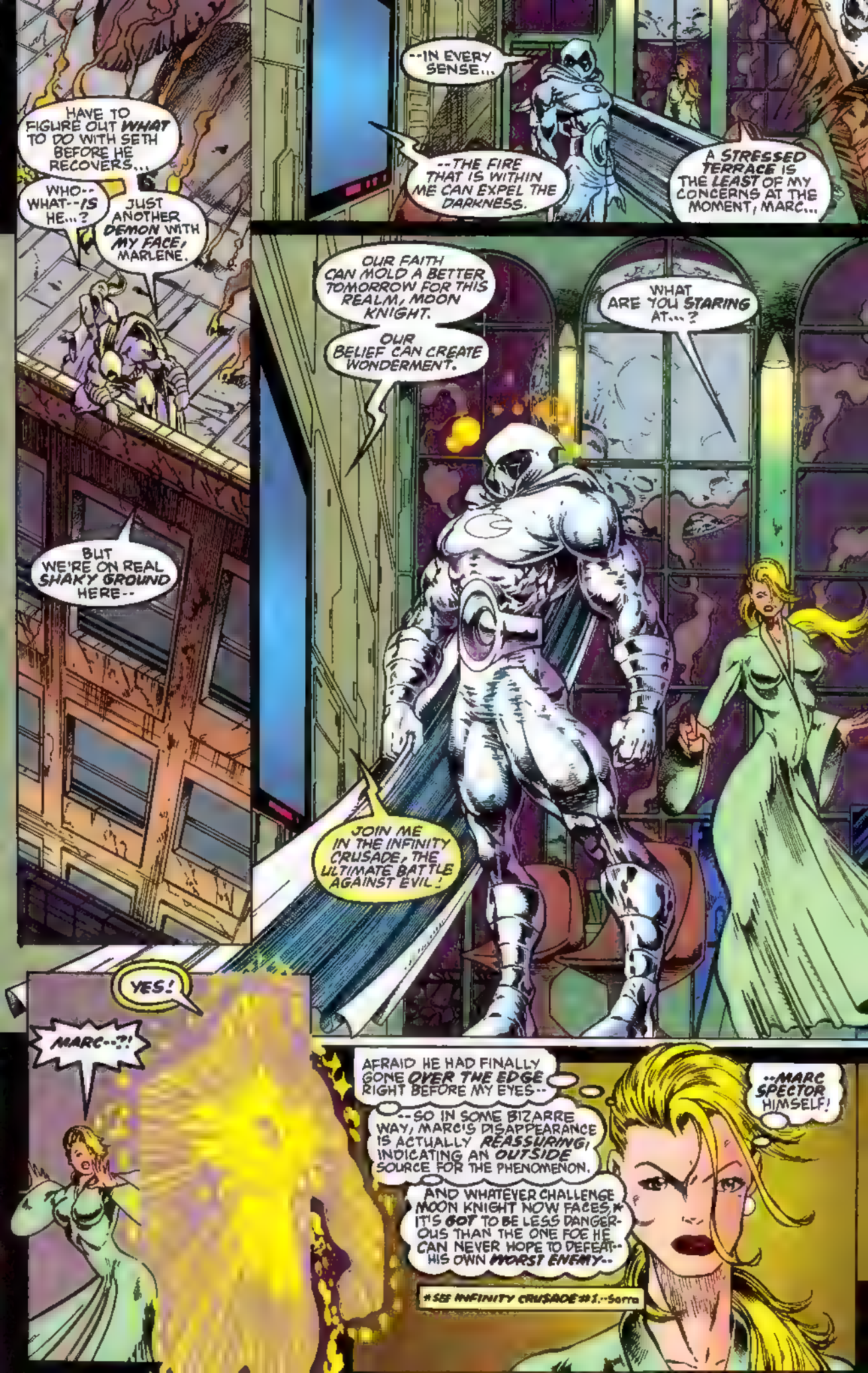
IT WAS INEVITABLE, MARLENE...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE DONE, MARC...
...WHAT I'M DOING NOW--
I KNOW FAR MORE THAN YOU SUSPECT...
...BUT THE GAME IS OVER!
SWAK
UHFF...

THE PHALKONCORP COMPUTERS HIDE NOTHING FROM ME, ALRAUNE...
OR ME...
CHK
CHK
MOON KNIGHT--?!
...ONCE I BROKE YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE SECRET CODES.
SORDID FILES TOLD ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW, SETH...
...AND PHALKONCORP WILL BE OUT OF BUSINESS BY MORNING.
SETH PHALKON--?!
SETH, THE IMMORTAL, MARLENE...
SHK

...TO THE ETERNAL HORROR OF MY ENEMIES!
THIS IS INSANE...
--UKK!
...WHILE YOU ARE NOTORIOUSLY EASY TO KILL!
AND IF I CANNOT DRAIN YOUR PRECIOUS LIFE-FORCE BECAUSE OF OUR CURSED BLOOD-TIE--
OUT OF HERE, MARLENE-- NOW!
I'LL AVANT HER DOWN NEXT, HERO...!
PROBABLY TRUE...
...UNLESS I CHOOSE ANOTHER OPTION!
MARLENE!
THE ALRAUNE WOMAN HAS PROVEN QUITE RESOURCEFUL, KNIGHT...
MY ANGEL-WING--


--I'LL SIMPLY BREAK YOUR MISERABLE MORTAL BODY IN HALF!
KR-K
DROP HIM, SETH...
UHFF!
BAWHOOM
HOW...?!
ADDED STINGER MISSILES TO THE ANGELWING SINCE MARLENE...LEFT--
--BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A QUICK STUDY.
AND IT CONFIRMS THAT YOU CAN BE HURT!
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT YOUR CRESCENT-DARTS CANNOT STOP A TRUE IMMORTAL, MARCUS...

...ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T EVEN TRY.
I DON'T HAVE TO FIRE A FATAL SHOT TO PIN YOU WITHOUT LEVERAGE, SETH-- IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE--
LONG ENOUGH FOR MY ADAMANTIUM TRUNCHEON TO PUT YOU OUT OF OUR MISERY.
THOK
MARLENE...
...COME HOME.


--IN EVERY SENSE...
--THE FIRE THAT IS WITHIN ME CAN EXPEL THE DARKNESS.
A STRESSED TERRACE IS THE LEAST OF MY CONCERNS AT THE MOMENT, MARC...
HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH SETH BEFORE HE RECOVERS...
WHO--WHAT--IS HE...?
JUST ANOTHER DEMON WITH MY FACE, MARLENE.
OUR FAITH CAN MOLD A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THIS REALM, MOON KNIGHT.
OUR BELIEF CAN CREATE WONDERMENT.
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT...?
BUT WE'RE ON REAL SHAKY GROUND HERE--
JOIN ME IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE, THE ULTIMATE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL!
YES!
MARC--?!
AFRAID HE HAD FINALLY GONE OVER THE EDGE RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES--
--SO IN SOME BIZARRE WAY, MARC'S DISAPPEARANCE IS ACTUALLY REASSURING, INDICATING AN OUTSIDE SOURCE FOR THE PHENOMENON.
AND WHATEVER CHALLENGE MOON KNIGHT NOW FACES, IT'S GOT TO BE LESS DANGEROUS THAN THE ONE FOE HE CAN NEVER HOPE TO DEFEAT--HIS OWN WORST ENEMY--
--MARC SPECTOR HIMSELF!
* SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #1.--Sorta

BUT THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF WARPED THINKING I TRIED TO ESCAPE IN THE FIRST PLACE--
SKREEE
ALMOST FORGOT WE LEFT SETH--
--OUTSIDE...?!
SKREEEE
YOU SHALL BE MY FIRST AMONG FIRSTS, HOOK...
...WHEN THE HELLBENT PRIMES WELCOME US HOME.
--AND AS FOR THE WOMAN..
THIS "ANGELWING" WILL SERVE AS TRANSPORTATION--
NOOOO!
SKREE
SLSH
NEXT ISSUE: AN INFINITY CRUSADE EPILOGUE... WHERE MOON KNIGHT LEARNS THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT MARC SPECTOR!

LUNAR CLIPS

SARRA MOSSOFF
editor

KARL BOLLERS
assistant editor

C/O MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, 387 PARK AVE. SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFORMATION UPON REQUEST.

SARRA SAYS...

I'd like to hunker down and address a touchy issue this month — in the hopes of making "Lunar Clips" as effective as possible! First, check out the following letter:

Dear Lunar Clips,
Re: MOON KNIGHT
I have some questions and suggestions:
1) In issue #49 of MOON KNIGHT, Sal Conigliaro suggested bringing back Morpheus. Any connection to the mists of Morpheus i.e. Doctor Strange?
2) Have Captain America and MK discuss MK's violent tactics.
3) Will MK ever rejoin the Avengers?
4) Who or what is PhalkonCorp? It sounds as if it's based in Egypt. (Hint! Hint!)
5) If Marlene isn't gonna be Marc's girlfriend anymore, how about Black Widow?
6) How about guest-starring Nomad and Archangel?
7) Have more adventures abroad.
8) Tell us more about Chloe...
And I gotta agree with Ivan G. Turner, editors generally have a nasty habit of dodging the issues (sorta like politicians). Sorry about the bad joke, but it's true. Thank you for listening.

Shane Saylor
(Address withheld by request)

1) As far as we know, there isn't a connection between Doctor Strange's mystic invocation and the life-sucking fiend that has plagued Marc Spector in the past...
2) MK has established himself as a loner, so don't expect him to be seeking Cap's advice or counsel anytime soon. Most of MK's violent methods are more connected to Marc Spector's problems. And Marc's problems are about to get even worse — you can imagine where this will lead! Keep reading, Shane!
3) It looks doubtful, though he'll be interacting with some of them next issue.
4) We've been revealing the mystery of the diabolical Seth Phalkon and his company, PhalkonCorp, slowly but surely over the past months, Shane. Stay tuned!
5) Who said Marlene and Marc won't be dating anymore? And as for the Widow, well... she's an Avenger and we know how Marc feels about the Avengers.
6) Uh... how about 'em?
7) Well, the adventures don't get any broader than next issue! Believe it!
8) As for Chloe, you'll be seeing and learning much more about her in the next few issues.

I'd like to address Shane's point about editors dodging the issues — because I'd like to avoid it happening here. For those of you who may not remember or didn't read Ivan's letter, in issue #52, he points out that too often editors just paint a rosy picture of things to come, rather than address a correspondent's criticisms.
Listening to and addressing the concerns and complaints of our readers is important to me, as I am sure it is to other Marvel editors. After all, we do these books for YOU to read!
That said, I have to agree with Joey Cavalieri's (the editor at the time) response to Ivan. He pointed out that "no one can give you what you want unless you tell them what you want." Too often a correspondent rails on and on about what it is he or she really hates, but offers no suggestions for improvements. How can I or any other editor address your concerns if given no options to discuss? Referring to other, positive aspects of the book or coming changes is the only option left open to us!
I'm hoping "Lunar Clips" can be an open, honest forum for you to express your views and feel that any concerns you have have been adequately addressed. I'll need your help to insure that's what happens! I'm looking forward to it!

Dear Lunar Clips,
I can't believe that I'm writing again, but MOON KNIGHT issues #52 and #53 were great! It was a long overdue appearance by Werewolf. The team-up between MK, Werewolf, and Gambit made a good story. I would like to see a Werewolf limited series, and maybe even a MOON KNIGHT ANNUAL! He's long overdue for one!

Joe Walawander
51 Ludel Terrace
Lackawanna, NY 14218

We can't believe you're writing again either, Joe! But thanks, anyway! No current plans for a WEREWOLF limited series or a MOON KNIGHT ANNUAL even, but if you keep cranking out letters requesting them, you might inspire people of like minds to write as well.

Dear Sarra,
I'm not a regular MOON KNIGHT reader, but I picked up a recent issue. It was decent (that means better than most comics put out today). I also grabbed the Gambit issues and they weren't bad, either. Nice little book you've got here.
I'd like to see Marlene and Marc get together, and another Gambit appearance (but not too soon), or maybe the Avengers again. I'd also be sure and buy this title if you printed my letter. Thank you.

Brian Stanley
405 N. Brookshore Dr.
Shorewood, IL 60435

We make it a rule of thumb (and all other fingers... toes, even) never to print letters because it'll be a sure-fire way to get the missive's writer to pick up the book, Brian. Rather, we print letters because we really do care about the voice of our readership and what that voice sounds like. You did get a Marc and Marlene reunion this issue — albeit short-lived. He'll be back! (But will Marlene want him?) As for guest-stars, check out the NEXT ISSUE box below.

Dear Lunar Clips,
If you would be so kind as to let me start at the beginning. I'm a young man, sixteen years of age. I seriously started collecting comics in the summer of '89. Before that, I had bought an issue here or there, usually back issues of MOON KNIGHT. At first, I started with a few titles: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SILVER SURFER, X-FACTOR, MOON KNIGHT, and a few other titles from other companies. Then in early '90 came NAMOR and a little later, SPIDER-MAN. I watched as slowly, all started to decrease in quality of both art and storyline. So I dropped all — except this one.
I like MK's armor, but there's always room for improvement. I'm sick of Marlene. I can't count all the times she and Marc have broken up. He is supposed to be a rich, handsome man. How about he gets a date? Frenchie. What you've done to this man is inexcusable. He's suddenly turned bitter. His refusing help from Marc Spector and insisting on being called "Jean-Paul" doesn't sound like the character at all. Is the Shadow Cabinet still around? I think this comic could do without them also. MK made it without them before, he can do it now.
People complain about guest stars; I love 'em. The way I figure it is as long as they add to the story and increase sales, bring 'em on. There are three I'd like to see in particular: Daredevil, Black Panther, and the Hulk. That's it for now. Don't fret though, I'll write again.

Ryan Venson
925 Sheffield Dr.
Evansville, IN 47710

We're happy to hear that MOON KNIGHT is still on your must-read list, Ryan. After his armor was destroyed two issues back, Marc would be the first to agree with you that there was much room for improvement in the armor department.
You're sick of Marlene? We think Marc is, too. Lovesick, we mean. But Marlene has made a separate and very successful life for herself. Will she (would you) want this very screwed-up millionaire back?
Fren — er, Jean-Paul has covered some rough territory this past year, including losing the use of his legs, something Marc, his best friend, bears some of the responsibility for. So if Jean-Paul doesn't seem like his old self, he has his reasons.
You saw the dissipation of the Cabinet this issue (and you're probably jumping for joy). As they say, with friends like that, who needs enemies?
And as for guest stars, check out...

NEXT ISSUE: The Infinity Crusade crossover not to be missed! MK must prove his worthiness to the Goddess, but will it cost him his soul? It's guest-stars galore in what is destined to be the most exciting comic of '93! Be here in thirty!

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SETTLING ACCOUNTS

WHOEVER SUGGESTED, "WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK'" NEVER FACED DOWN A DEMON-WORSHIPPING CULT BENT ON HUMAN SACRIFICE.
I KNOW HOW TO WHISTLE, OF COURSE. JUST PUT YOUR LIPS-
-IN MY CASE, SOMEONE ELSE'S LIPS-
-TOGETHER AND BLOW.
BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA

HE IS A GRIM ENTREPRENEUR WHO DOES BUSINESS ON THE EDGE OF THE LAW AND THE DARK SIDE OF REALITY. WITH A MACABRE ABILITY TO STEAL THE TALENTS OF OTHERS BY TAKING THEIR BODY PARTS, HE IS A MERCENARY, A ROGUE, AN ARCANE GUN FOR HIRE. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

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letterer: VICKIE WILLIAMS
colorists: KEVIN SOMERS J. PAES
editor: MARCUS McLAURIN
chief: TOM DeFALCO

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PROBLEM IS, THE MUSAK TENDS TO GET DROWNED OUT BY THE SCREAMS OF THE DYING.
BRAKA BRAKA
FAR EASIER TO JUST CONCENTRATE ON BLOWING AWAY.
HELLFIRE HAS IT DOWN TO A SCIENCE...
FWIRKOOM!
...OR WOULD IF HIS POWER DIDN'T DERIVE FROM A HALF-BREED BLOODLINE MIRED IN THE BLACK ARTS.
MY IRONICALLY HUMANITARIAN PARTNER HAS CLEARED THE WAY TO SABAIST, THE CULT'S LEADER...
KLATTER
BRAKA BRAKA
...VARIOUS CREMATED REMAINS NOTWITHSTANDING
YOUR CRUDE WEAPONRY IS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF CULEX, MERCENARY

IT'S *INFERNAL MAGICKS* PROVIDE UNHOLY PROTECTION!

WOULD THAT BE "MAGIC" WITH A "K"?

KWAAK

WHY, YES. I BELIEVE IT IS

BUDDA BUDDA

I *HATE ARCHAIC* SPELLINGS!

A PITY, TERROR WHAT OF THE *DEAD LANGUAGES* THAT SO FEARFULLY *NAMED YOU* IN THEIR MIDNIGHT HOURS?

KTING PTANG

WHAT OF THE SOON-TO-BE-DEAD LANGUAGES WHEN MY LORD CULEX HAS HAD HIS WAY WITH THIS WORLD, HMM, AGED *VREES*?

YOUR *BULLETS* ARE LIKE KISSES, *KONGBU*

...LET ME BE EQUALLY *INTIMATE*!

BRAVA BRAVA

SHRIMP

ALL USELESS WORDS, GAOXA...
...FOR THE DREAD EMOTION YOU'RE FEELING NOW!
YOU OVERESTIMATE-- YOUR GOD'S APPEARANCE, SADIST...
THWOK
...REMEMBER WHAT I LOOK AT IN THE MIRROR EACH MORNING!
NO YOU FOOL YOU'VE DISRUPTED THE MYSTIC--
SHHH!
SURELY YOU MEAN, "MYSTICK"!
L-LORD CULEX... P-PLEASE.
I'LL TAKE THAT, IF YOU DON'T MIND... AND EVEN IF YOU DO!
NORMALLY, I'D APOLOGIZE FOR THE MOLECULAR ACID AT WORK ON YOUR JOINTS...

...BUT I CAN SEE YOU HAVE MORE PRESSING CONCERNS!
GLTCHT
THE CULTIST'S ARM HAS THE ABILITY TO CLOSE THE PORTAL, AND I LET IT DO ITS OBSCENE BUSINESS WITHOUT WANTING TO KNOW ANY MORE.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVEN I FIND REVOLTING.
THE REST ARE FINISHED WHERE'S SABAIST?
SEASONING THE DEVIL'S BARBECUE.
THE LOOK, PLEASE, WHILE I DIVEST MYSELF OF HIS DETESTABLE REMAINS.
I DON'T WORK FOR YOU, MERCENARY!
FWIKKSH
ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS I IN YOUR EMPLOY! SPEND YOUR MONEY AND DON'T TAKE MY RECOMMENDATIONS!
GLTCH!
AFTER YOU, THEN!

N-NO.. DON'T!
IT'S ALRIGHT, WE'RE HERE TO HELP..
LEAVE ME ALONE PLEASE LEAVE ME--
GOOD WORK, MIKAL! YOU'VE GET HER COMPLETELY AT EDGE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOUR COUNTENANCE DOESN'T PROVIDE MUCH IN THE WAY OF RELIEF!
MY OWN IS PERHAPS TOO MUCH A REMINDER..
"...OF LONG FORGOTTEN [illegible] TRULY LOST THINGS IN THE CLOSET.. "
THERE WAS A TIME MY BUSINESS WAS LESS ABOUT PROFIT AND MORE ABOUT PATRONAGE.
SOMEONE HAD TO GIVE A NAME TO THE NIGHT'S MOST PRIMAL EMOTION..
..AND SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE IT FOR HIS OWN..

"WHEN SABAIST'S CULT TOOK THE GIRL...
...THE VILLAGERS TURNED TO THE MONKS FOR HELP!
AND WHEN YOU TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE RUTHLESSNESS NECESSARY FOR HER RESCUE, YOU TURNED TO ME!
I'M TOUCHED
YOU'RE PAID IN FULL, IS WHAT YOU ARE!
NOT BY FAR, HELLFIRE!
YOU ORIGINALLY LURED ME TO THIS MONASTERY WITH A PROMISE OF PENANCE!
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BROTHER RANDA'S DUPLICITY WITH PRIAPUS *
PERHAPS NOT HALF-BREED!
* IN "FOR LOVE NOR MONEY"-- SEE TERROR #11 AND #12 FOR MORE DETAILS! -MINUTE-BY-MINUTE MARCUS
WHICH DOES NOT EXCUSE THAT I STILL OWE IT TO A LOVE I ONCE HAD TO SEEK SOME FORM OF REDEMPTION!
MANY EVEN NOW FOLLOW A "GODDESS" IN SEARCH OF SALVATION...
YOU COULD JOIN THEIR CRUSADE, TERROR
I THINK NOT, MIKAL.
IF I'M TO FIND FORGIVENESS, IT WON'T BE ON A FABRICATED WORLD ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEM..

REKRABS
ARCANUM
REK
ARCA
"LONDON'S MISSED YOU, TERROR..."
-THEN AGAIN, THERE ARE THOSE WHO YEARN FOR THE DAYS OF JACK THE RIPPER, TOO!
YOUR HOMUNCULUS IS LOOSE, REKRAB.
THE IMP KNOWS ITS PLACE... I'M NOT SURE ABOUT YOU ANYMORE! YOU'RE ENTERING DANGEROUS WATERS FOR HER SAKE!
YOU REEK OF HYPOCRISY, MERCHANT!
YOU RIDE ME TO CAST OFF MERCENARY WORK IN FAVOR OF MY ARCANE PAST--
--AND WHEN I TAKE A TENTATIVE STEP FORWARD INTO THAT ARENA, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT NEGATIVE!
BECAUSE IT'S ONLY HALF A STEP!
--AND THAT CAN TOO EASILY BE MISCONSTRUED AS MEDDLING!
DO WHAT YOU WANT!
BUT INSTEAD OF DIGGING UP OTHERS' GRAVES--
--THIS TIME YOU MAY BE DIGGING YOUR OWN!
BORDERLINE
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
KING•BLADE•DR
"I DON'T KNOW THAT I LIKE YOUR KIND IN BOSTON, TERROR..."

...TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T KNOW THAT THE NIGHTSTALKERS LIKE YOUR KIND ANYWHERE!
I'M LOOKING FOR INFORMATION, NOT YOUR APPROVAL, MR. DRAKE.
OR DO YOU PREFER THE MORE FAMILIAL "DRACULA"?
DON'T PUSH IT, TERROR! LINDA SAYS YOU'RE UNNATURAL, BUT NOT SUPERNATURAL- THAT STILL ONLY CUTS YOU SO MUCH SLACK!
AND REKRAB'S INTRODUCTION?
LITTLE MORE. HIS OCCULT EXPERTISE HELPS IN OUR HUNT. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU MAYBE 30 MORE SECONDS.
THEN I HOPE YOU SPEAK QUICKLY.
I SEEK CONFIRMATION OF GHOST RIDER'S ROLE AS ONE OF THE "NINE" DEFENDING THIS REALITY AGAINST DEMONIC FORCES.
YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO ASK, THERE'S NO HARM IN THE ANSWER.
YEAH.
WATCH YOUR BACK, MERCENARY! THERE'S NO TOLERANCE FOR ANYONE WHO STRIDES WITH THE FORCES OF DARKNESS!
I TOOK A STAND AGAINST THEM LONG BEFORE EITHER YOU OR YOUR VAMPIRIC ANCESTOR WERE EVEN CONCEIVED, SIR!
IT'S WRITTEN ON MY FACE FOR ALL TO SEE...
...A ROTTING SCARLET LETTER OF PRIMAL ARROGANCE AND TRIBAL INGRATITUDE!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

I'm heartbroken!

After all these years, I finally took the plunge and decided to write a monthly comicbook again, and I never had a better time. Collaborating with that peerless penciler, Pandemonious **Paul Ryan**, and guided by the exhilarating editorial skills of Jolly **Joey Cavalieri**, we managed to get RAVAGE 2099 off to a sensational start!

It was truly a blast being back in the swim again, worrying about the usual demonic deadlines, frantically dreaming up new plots and new characters, and having urgent long-distance conferences with Paul and Joey.

And then it happened!

Suddenly, all of our theatrical projects have started jelling at once! The X-MEN cartoon series became Saturday morning's biggest hit, and producers all over Hollywood are developing SPIDER-MAN, THE BLACK PANTHER, X-MEN (the live version), DR. STRANGE, LUKE CAGE, GHOST RIDER, DAREDEVIL and many more of our top characters.

While we're all overjoyed about that exciting news, it means that there's enough movie and TV work to keep me busy a hundred hours a day—which also means it's impossible for me to devote the time necessary to give an important strip like RAVAGE the attention it deserves!

So, most regretfully, I must announce that RAVAGE #7, "The Vengeance of Dragonklaw," will be the last issue I write. But, I promise you this. No matter how busy I may be, I'll be following Rav's adventures as enthusiastically as all the rest of our hundreds of thousands of readers. I mean, hey, I wanna find out what happens to ol' "Power Hands" just as much as you do!

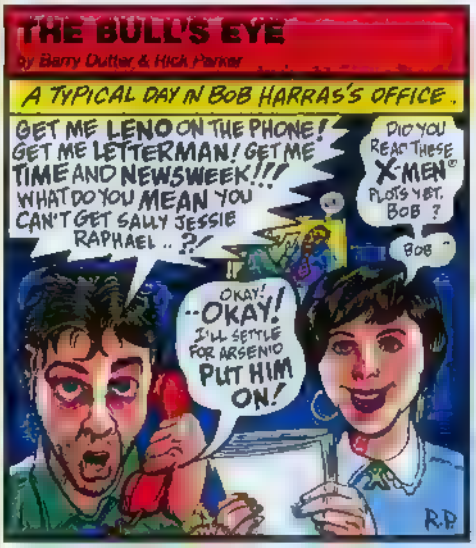
But, even through the tears, there's always this one battle cry to comfort us —

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Video may have killed the radio star, but it seems to have created a whole new animal — the comic book star! These days, more comics people are turning up on TV than Ross Perot during an election year.

Marvel's biggest multi-media star these days is mutant maestro **Bob Harras,** who has been putting in more TV time than Michael Jackson trying to pump up his album sales! Bob's media blitz started off in February with the showbiz double whammy of *Entertainment Tonight*/*Entertainment Weekly*. (They don't call Bob "Mr. Entertainment" for nothing! He pays them.) Bob now says that wherever he goes, people recognize him from his *Entertainment Weekly* photo, which is unfortunate, since, as he puts it, "I look like an idiot in the picture!"


THE BULL'S EYE
by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker
A TYPICAL DAY IN BOB HARRAS'S OFFICE.
GET ME LENO ON THE PHONE! GET ME LETTERMAN! GET ME TIME AND NEWSWEEK!!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T GET SALLY JESSIE RAPHAEL .. ?!
DID YOU READ THESE X-MEN PLOTS YET, BOB ?
BOB ..
OKAY! --OKAY! I'LL SETTLE FOR ARSENIO PUT HIM ON!
R.P.

In March, Bob jetted with **John Romita Sr.** to Sydney, Australia, for the hottest show Down Under since Skippy the Bush Kangaroo hopped off the airwaves. Bob and John were guests at Australia's biggest comic convention, but the two also put in an appearance on Melbourne's biggest morning show, *Good Morning Australia* and Australian version of *Inside Edition*, where, as Bob put it, "I jabbered about the 30th anniversary of the X-Men." Bob and John concluded their Australian walkabout and returned to the States, whereupon Bob flew out to the coast for a meeting in Hollywood to discuss the live-action X-Men movie! That little gab-fest was arranged by **Joe Calamari,** the only man at Marvel with more Tinseltown connections than Wonder Man!

While in La-La Land, Bob also met with the writers of the *X-Men* animated series. Bob noted that Fox is very happy with the ratings of the X-Men cartoon — it's the #1 show on Saturday mornings! Bob added that the TV show is bringing in lots of new X-Maniacs to the comic: "Kids all across the land are watching X-Men!"

As if all that wasn't enough, the Harrasment continued as Bob escaped to New York to tape an *X-Men* promo video to be shown at all the big cons this summer. Also appearing in the video were mutant-like writer **Scott Lobdell,** and mutant monger **Tom DeFalco.** Summing up his thoughts on the X-Men, Bob gushed, "They're my family!"

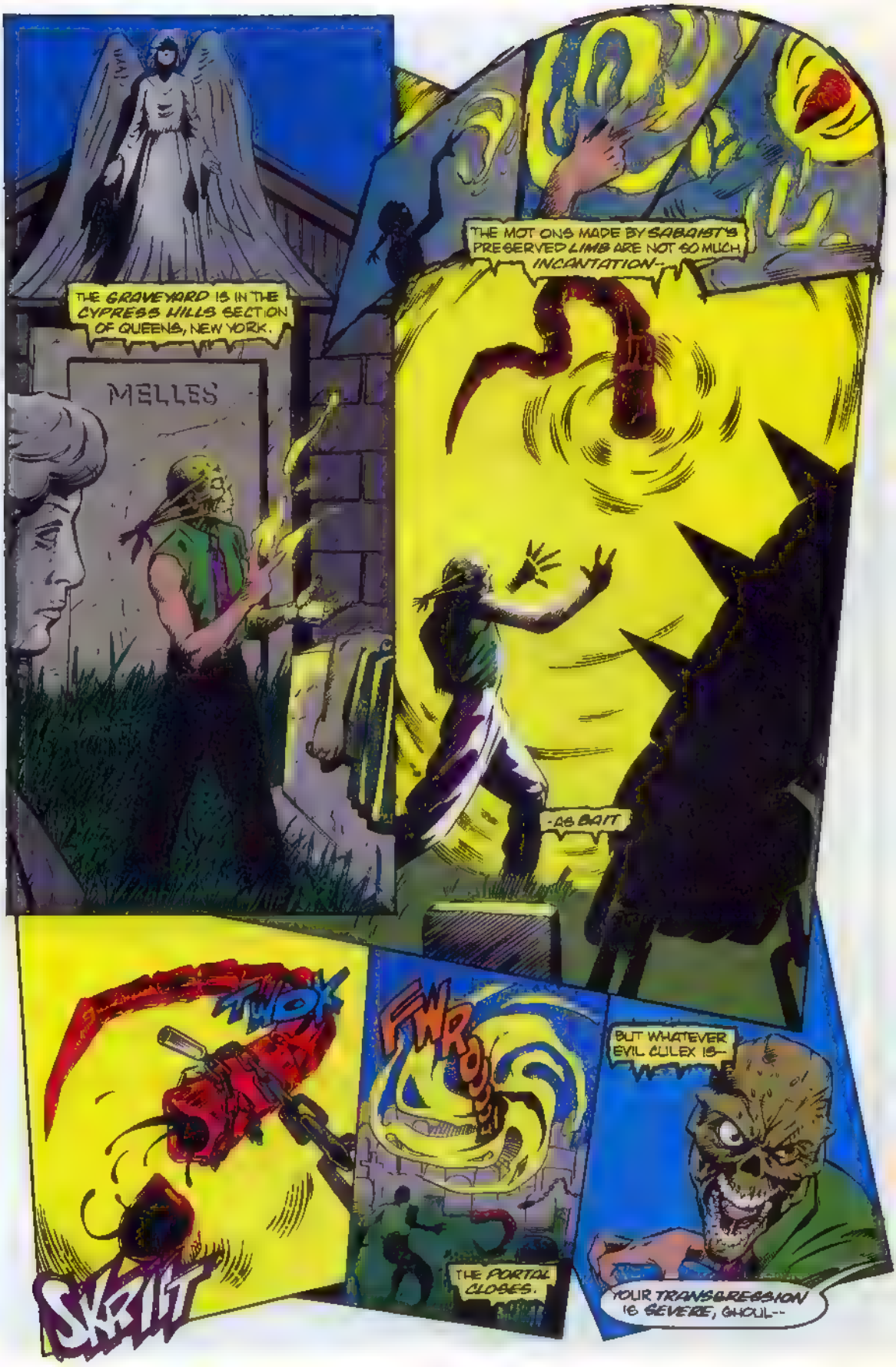
A recent addition to the Marvel family is **Michael Bair,** whose sizzling rendition of HELLSTORM is burning up the comic racks. Mike recently made his TV debut on the ratings scorcher, *You Bet Your Life*, hosted by Bill Cosby. Mike got the former Dr. Huxtable to sign a rare copy of his *I, Spy* #1 comic, and the Cos admitted to having a few copies of that book himself. (Fortunately for Mike, the show wasn't called, "You Bet Your Soul!")

One guy who always puts his heart and soul (and spleen) into his work is Rob Tokar's assistant editor, **Dan Cuddy,** whose band, Hypnolovewheel, taped a new music video during the Blizzard of '93! The video was for "Piece of Mind," the hot new single off Hypnolovewheel's fifth album, "Altered States." The video features a couple of Marvelods, inker **Don Hudson** and associate editor **Sarra Mossoff,** in a bizarre aerobics ceremony. Dan describes the clip as "Richard Simmons meets the Maharishi Maha Yogi!"

Bass-player Dan said this mega-rockin' video should be playing on better music video channels everywhere. Strangely, Bob Harras does not appear in the video .

HYPELINE! ON SALE THIS WEEK

- **AIRTIGHT GARAGE #2 OF 4:** It's Moebius magic!
- **ALIEN LEGION: ONE PLANET AT A TIME # 2 OF 3:** We've got your Sigourney Weaver right here!
- **AVENGERS WEST COAST #97:** An Infinity Crusade Crossover! (Hereafter referred to as an ICO!)
- **CABLE #4:** Cable could use a good Six-Pack!
- **CAGE #17:** Cage's secrets revealed — he really misses those yellow shirts! ICO!
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #418:** D-Day for D-Man and the Night People!
- **DAREDEVIL #319:** First the Kingpin fell — now it's DD's turn!
- **DARKHAWK #30:** ICO! Introducing Purity, the deadliest villain of all!
- **DARKMAN #5 OF 6:** Showdown with Durant!
- **DEATH'S HEAD 2 & KILLPOWER: BATTLETIDE 2 #1 OF 4:** The longest title in comics just got longer!
- **GROO THE WANDERER #103:** *Not* an Infinity Crusade Crossover!
- **ILLUMINATOR #4:** The spotlight is on Molatron!
- **INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #19:** Introducing Lazarus!
- **KILLPOWER: THE EARLY YEARS #1 OF 4:** The battlefade has turned!
- **NAMOR #41:** At war with War Machine!
- **NIGHTSTALKERS #10:** Who needs the Infinity Crusade — these guys have their own crossover: the Midnight Massacre!
- **NOMAD #16:** Take a gamble on Gambit!
- **ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER #14:** A year in the life of Zodiac 2!
- **PUNISHER: ORIGIN OF MICRO CHIP #2 OF 2:** Concluding the most-requested origin story of them all!
- **PUNISHER SUMMER SPECIAL #3:** No vacation for this guy!
- **REN & STIMPY #9:** Would you worship these two?
- **SHADOW RIDERS #3 OF 4:** With everyone's favorite TV star Cable!
- **SHE-HULK #54:** Shulkie and Wonder Man on a soap opera! ("As the Comic Book Turns" ?!)
- **SPIDER-MAN 2099 #10:** Where's Uncle Ben 2099?
- **SPIDER-MAN CLASSICS #8:** Introducing Sandman!
- **UNCANNY X-MEN #303:** With art by the uncanny John Romita Jr.!
- **UNTAMED #3 OF 3:** The final fate of Griffit!
- **WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2:** ICO ICO.
- **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #103:** Who needs the Infinity Crusade or the Midnight Massacre? We've got **Maximum Carnage** here!


THE GRAVEYARD IS IN THE CYPRESS HILLS SECTION OF QUEENS, NEW YORK.
MELLES
THE MOT ONS MADE BY SABAIST'S PRESERVED LIMB ARE NOT SO MUCH INCANTATION--
-AS BAIT
THWOK
SKRIT
FWRSH
THE PORTAL CLOSES.
BUT WHATEVER EVIL CULEX IS--
YOUR TRANSGRESSION IS SEVERE, GHOUL--

—IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE IT MATCHING THE FURY ON THIS SIDE OF THE DOORWAY
—AND SO SHALL BE THE VENGEANCE!
NEIL THE HORSE
GOOD EVENING, GHOST RIDER!

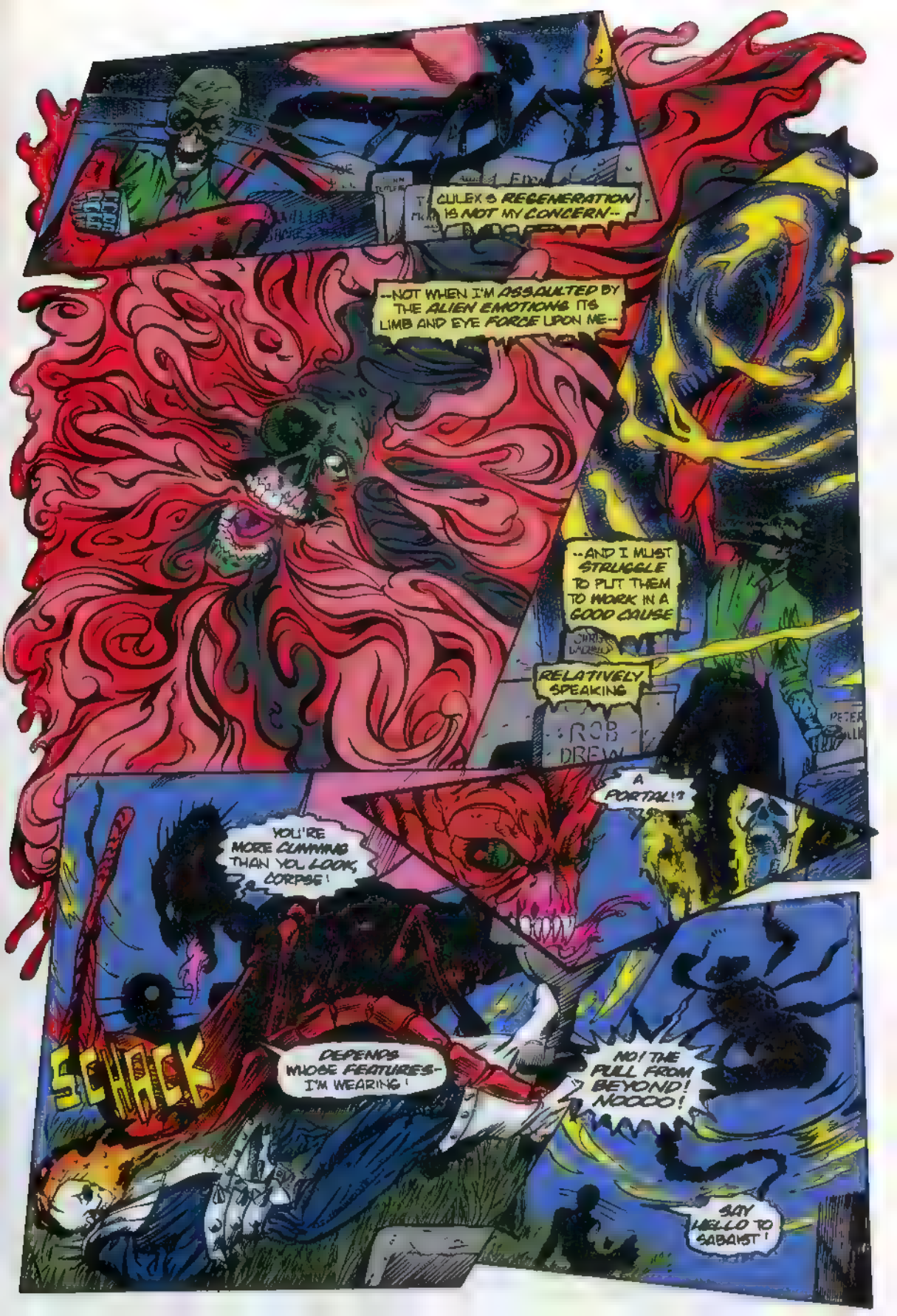
YOUR CALM IS NOT THAT OF ONE INTENT ON BRINGING DOWN THE DIMENSIONAL WALLS..
SLLLZ
YOU PLAY A DANGEROUS GAME!
AN UNFORTUNATE RUSE, AND ONE NO LONGER NEEDED! I APOLOGIZE!
LISA HAWKIN
SO I'VE BEEN TOLD!
GLOOP
MMM.. NOURISHMENT!
YOU BREACHED THE WALL TO GAIN MY ATTENTION...
...WHY?
I DESIRE-- REQUIRE-- YOUR PENANCE STARE!
I ASSURE YOU, I AM DESERVING!
SLOOOK
NO DOUBT! THERE IS THE SCENT OF INNOCENT BLOOD ABOUT YOU..

. BUT ALSO THE CONFUSING TOUCH OF INNOCENCE ITSELF!
YOU CAN'T HOLD CERTAIN OF MY BODY PARTS AGAINST ME JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL NOT GUILTY!
I WON'T HAVE THE POWER I'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH MANIPULATED!
DON'T CROSS THE WALL--- OR ME- AGAIN!
IT'S NOT ONLY FOR ME I SEEK PENANCE, BUT FOR ANOTHER.. ONE FOR WHOM I NEED TO BE WORTHY! PLEASE, GHOST RIDER..
HOW SICKENING!
NOT MY MEAL--
-YOUR PATHETIC YATTERING!
CULEX?!

AT YOUR SERVICE!
TWIKOOM

COME TO ME, DEMON.
TRKRAATTE
SKRAK
...YOU ARE ONE UNWORTHY ENOUGH TO FACE THE PENANCE STARE!
SKROK
AND WHAT SHALL I DO PENANCE FOR? I WAS CONCEIVED BEYOND THE WALL AND HAVE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO INFLICT PAIN--
--UNTIL NOW!
SABAIST'S ARM, ONE MORE-
SKRINCH
A GOOD BUSINESSMAN KNOWS HOW TO USE THE TOOLS AT HAND!

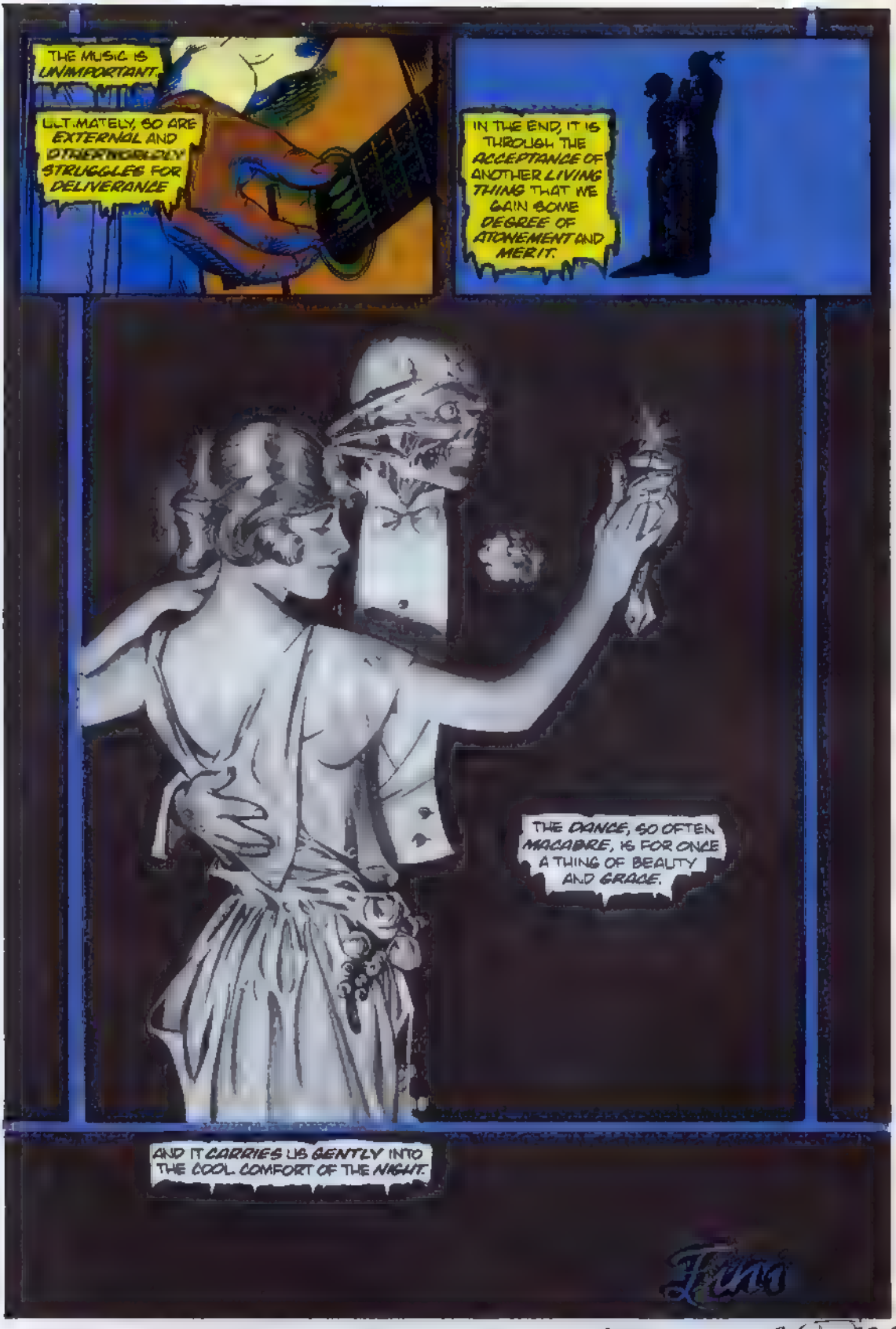
YOUR BONES GROW BRITTLE AS I SUCK THEIR SUPERNATURAL MARROW, GHOST RIDER!
YES, I KNOW OF YOU... AND SOON ALL SHALL KNOW OF CULEX!
CHAK!
WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU!
SHRIP
WOK
A USELESS ATTACK!
EVEN NOW, MY WHOLE GROWS BACK FROM MY PARTS!


CULEX'S REGENERATION IS NOT MY CONCERN--
--NOT WHEN I'M ASSAULTED BY THE ALIEN EMOTIONS ITS LIMB AND EYE FORCE UPON ME--
--AND I MUST STRUGGLE TO PUT THEM TO WORK IN A GOOD CAUSE
RELATIVELY SPEAKING
ROB DREW
A PORTAL!?
YOU'RE MORE CUNNING THAN YOU LOOK, CORPSE!
SCHACK
DEPENDS WHOSE FEATURES- I'M WEARING!
NO! THE PULL FROM BEYOND! NOOOO!
SAY HELLO TO SABAIST!

GIVE ME THE DEMON'S REMAINS!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO THEM!
NOTHING SHALL GROW FROM THEM AGAIN IN THIS REALITY!
I KNOW I'LL SLEEP EASIER, NOW!
DON'T BE SO CERTAIN!
YOUR ACTIONS HAVE EARNED YOU WHAT YOU SO COVET!
THE FIERY STARE BURNS ITS WAY INTO A PAST LONG BURIED, PARTS OF MYSELF I WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE APART FROM ME.
A LONE BATTLE AGAINST A THING RULING THE DARK--
--ITS DREAD REIGN AND NATURE AN OBSTACLE TO A FLEDGLING SPECIES STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE
A BLACK KNIGHT CURSED BY VICTORY TO WEAR THE DEAD BEAST'S MANTLE
--TURNING THE FEAR HE EMBODIED INTO A GRIM TEST OF STRENGTH FOR THOSE HE ENCOUNTERED THROUGH THE AGES
YOU SERVE A PURPOSE AFTER ALL. OR DID!
I'M NO LONGER CERTAIN OF THAT
IN ANY CASE, YOU HAVE YOUR PENANCE!
FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT HAS DONE ME.

THE RESTAURANT IS IN A SMALL VILLAGE IN MEXICO, AND OPENS BUT ONCE EVERY 12 MONTHS...
Frog's
CLOSED for PRIVATE FUNCTION
...AN ANNUAL EVENT MARKING ANOTHER YEAR OF MY DOING BUSINESS WITH MISS ALEXIS PRIMO.
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SENOR ESPANTO!
AND YOU, SENOR HOW'S THE FAMILY?
VERY RICH, SENOR, THANKS TO YOUR CONTINUED PATRONAGE!
A GOOD BUSINESS MANAGER IS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THAT--
GOT THAT RIGHT!
--AND CELEBRATED!
KLINK
SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU, TERROR..
WHAT COULD THAT BE, ALEXIS?
THAT MY SEARCH FOR REDEMPTION HAS ONLY PROVIDED REMINDERS?
"OF THE SELFISH-SELFLESS ACT I MADE, MET WITH FRIGHTFUL REJECTION BY THE ONES I SOUGHT TO NURTURE AND PROTECT!"
"OF THE PATH I TOOK FOR SO LONG KILLING THE WOMAN I LOVED.. AND WHO REMARKABLY CHOSE TO LOVE ME!"

I FEAR MYSELF A FAILURE, ALEXIS!
THE ONLY THING I AM A SUCCESS AT IS THIS SLUMMING PROFITEERING!
AND NOT EVEN THAT!
YOUR "PERFECT" REPUTATION FOR COMPLETING CONTRACTS IS MARRED BY THE ONE YOU NEVER CARRIED OUT!
THE ONE MY HUSBAND TOOK OUT ON ME
MUST YOU REMIND ME?
YES...
...IF ONLY TO TELL YOU I FORGIVE YOU THAT.


THE MUSIC IS UNIMPORTANT.
ULTIMATELY, SO ARE EXTERNAL AND STRENUOUSLY STRUGGLES FOR DELIVERANCE
IN THE END, IT IS THROUGH THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANOTHER LIVING THING THAT WE GAIN SOME DEGREE OF ATONEMENT AND MERIT.
THE DANCE, SO OFTEN MACABRE, IS FOR ONCE A THING OF BEAUTY AND GRACE.
AND IT CARRIES US GENTLY INTO THE COOL COMFORT OF THE NIGHT.
Finis

after J.C. Leyendecker

Pace

MARVEL
THE MIGHTY
THOR
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
IN THE WAY OF A GODDESS!
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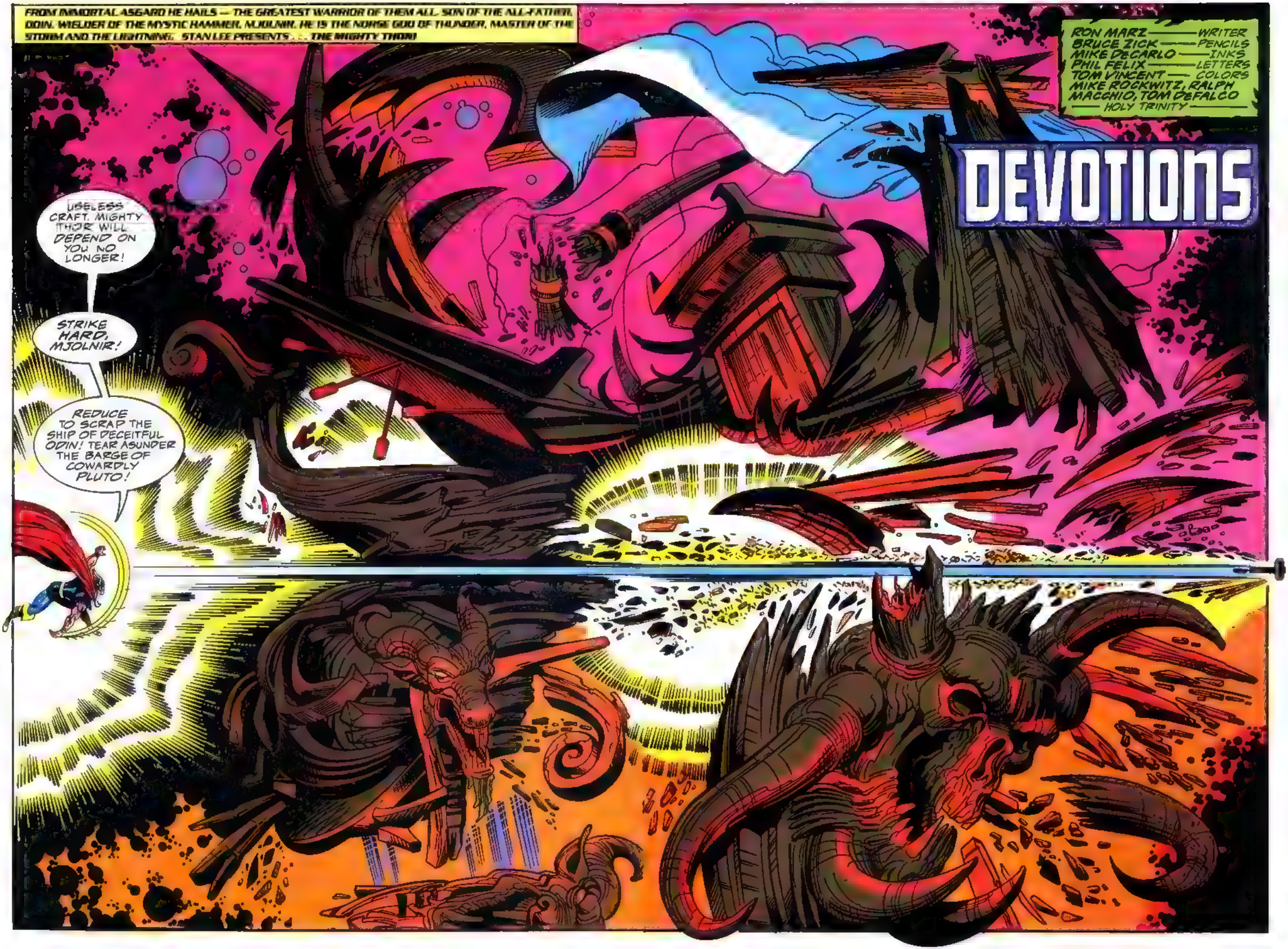
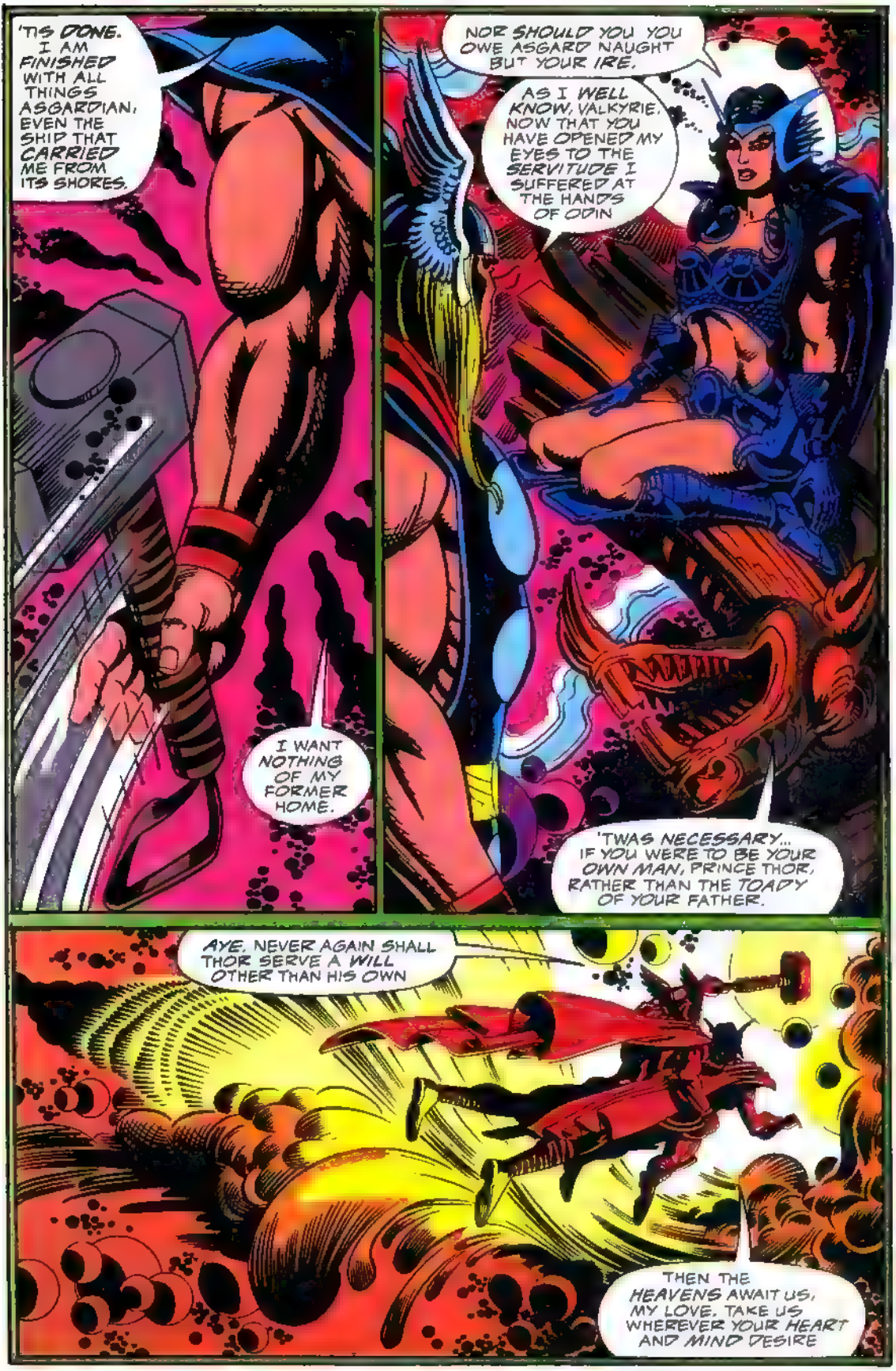
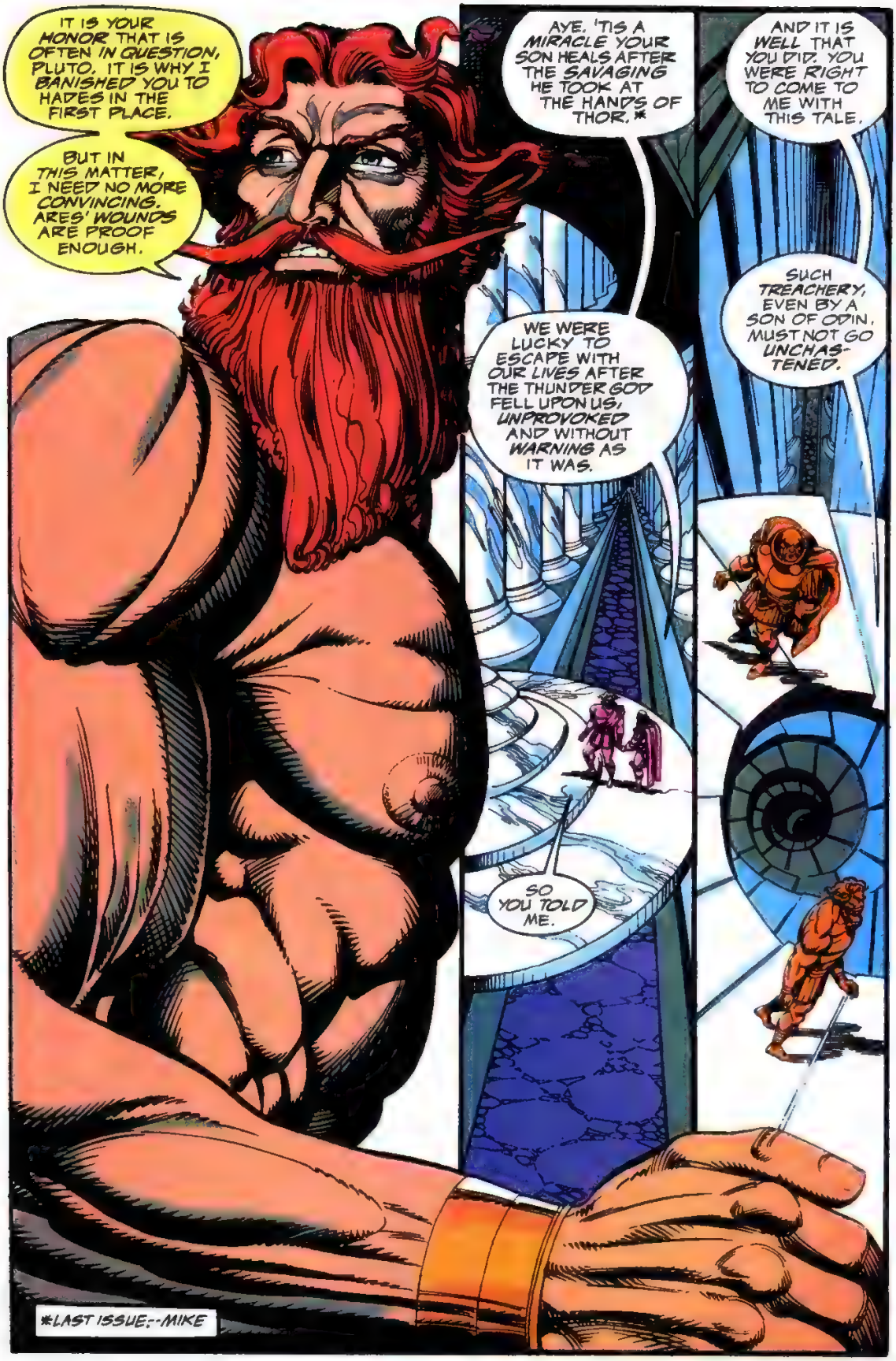

FROM IMMORTAL ASGARD HE HAILS — THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THEM ALL. SON OF THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN. WIELDER OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER, MJOLNIR. HE IS THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER, MASTER OF THE STORM AND THE LIGHTNING. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE MIGHTY THOR!
RON MARZ — WRITER
BRUCE ZICK — PENCILS
MIKE DECARLO — INKS
PHIL FELIX — LETTERS
TOM VINCENT — COLORS
MIKE ROCKWITZ, RALPH MACCHIO, TOM DEFALCO — HOLY TRINITY
DEVOTIONS
USELESS CRAFT. MIGHTY THOR WILL DEPEND ON YOU NO LONGER!
STRIKE HARD, MJOLNIR!
REDUCE TO SCRAP THE SHIP OF DECEITFUL ODIN! TEAR ASUNDER THE BARGE OF COWARDLY PLUTO!


'TIS DONE. I AM FINISHED WITH ALL THINGS ASGARDIAN, EVEN THE SHIP THAT CARRIED ME FROM ITS SHORES.
I WANT NOTHING OF MY FORMER HOME.
NOR SHOULD YOU YOU OWE ASGARD NAUGHT BUT YOUR IRE.
AS I WELL KNOW, VALKYRIE, NOW THAT YOU HAVE OPENED MY EYES TO THE SERVITUDE I SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF ODIN
'TWAS NECESSARY... IF YOU WERE TO BE YOUR OWN MAN, PRINCE THOR, RATHER THAN THE TOADY OF YOUR FATHER.
AYE, NEVER AGAIN SHALL THOR SERVE A WILL OTHER THAN HIS OWN
THEN THE HEAVENS AWAIT US, MY LOVE. TAKE US WHEREVER YOUR HEART AND MIND DESIRE

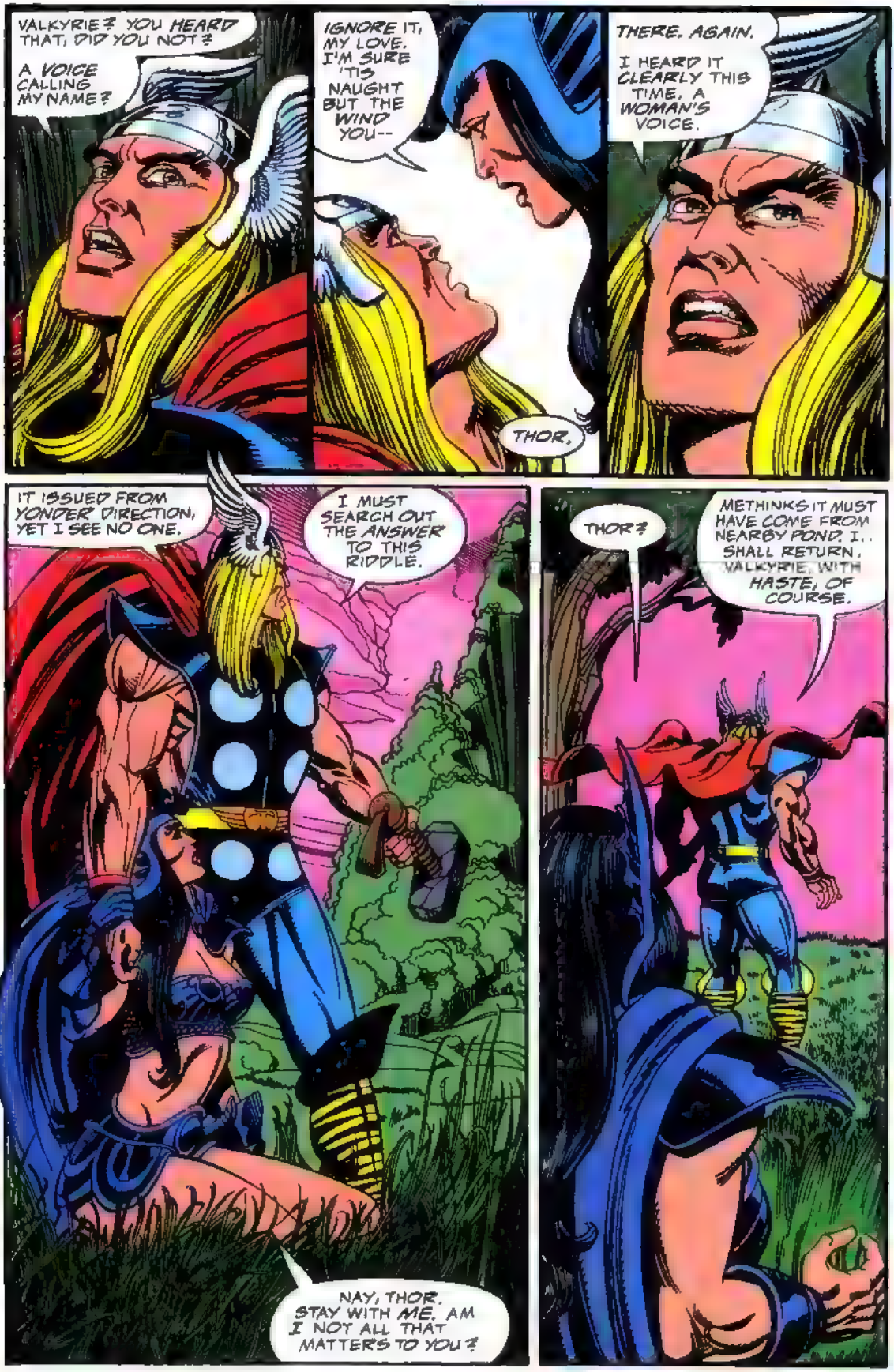
OLYMPUS.
BROTHER ZEUS, I TELL YOU IT WAS A MOST CRAVEN ATTACK
THIS MUST BE MET WITH PUNISHMENT, FOR THE ACT IN QUESTION IS AN AFFRONT TO MY HONOR.


IT IS YOUR HONOR THAT IS OFTEN IN QUESTION, PLUTO. IT IS WHY I BANISHED YOU TO HADES IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT IN THIS MATTER, I NEED NO MORE CONVINCING. ARES' WOUNDS ARE PROOF ENOUGH.
AYE. 'TIS A MIRACLE YOUR SON HEALS AFTER THE SAVAGING HE TOOK AT THE HANDS OF THOR.*
WE WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH OUR LIVES AFTER THE THUNDER GOD FELL UPON US, UNPROVOKED AND WITHOUT WARNING AS IT WAS.
SO YOU TOLD ME.
AND IT IS WELL THAT YOU DID. YOU WERE RIGHT TO COME TO ME WITH THIS TALE.
SUCH TREACHERY, EVEN BY A SON OF ODIN, MUST NOT GO UNCHASTENED.
*LAST ISSUE.--MIKE

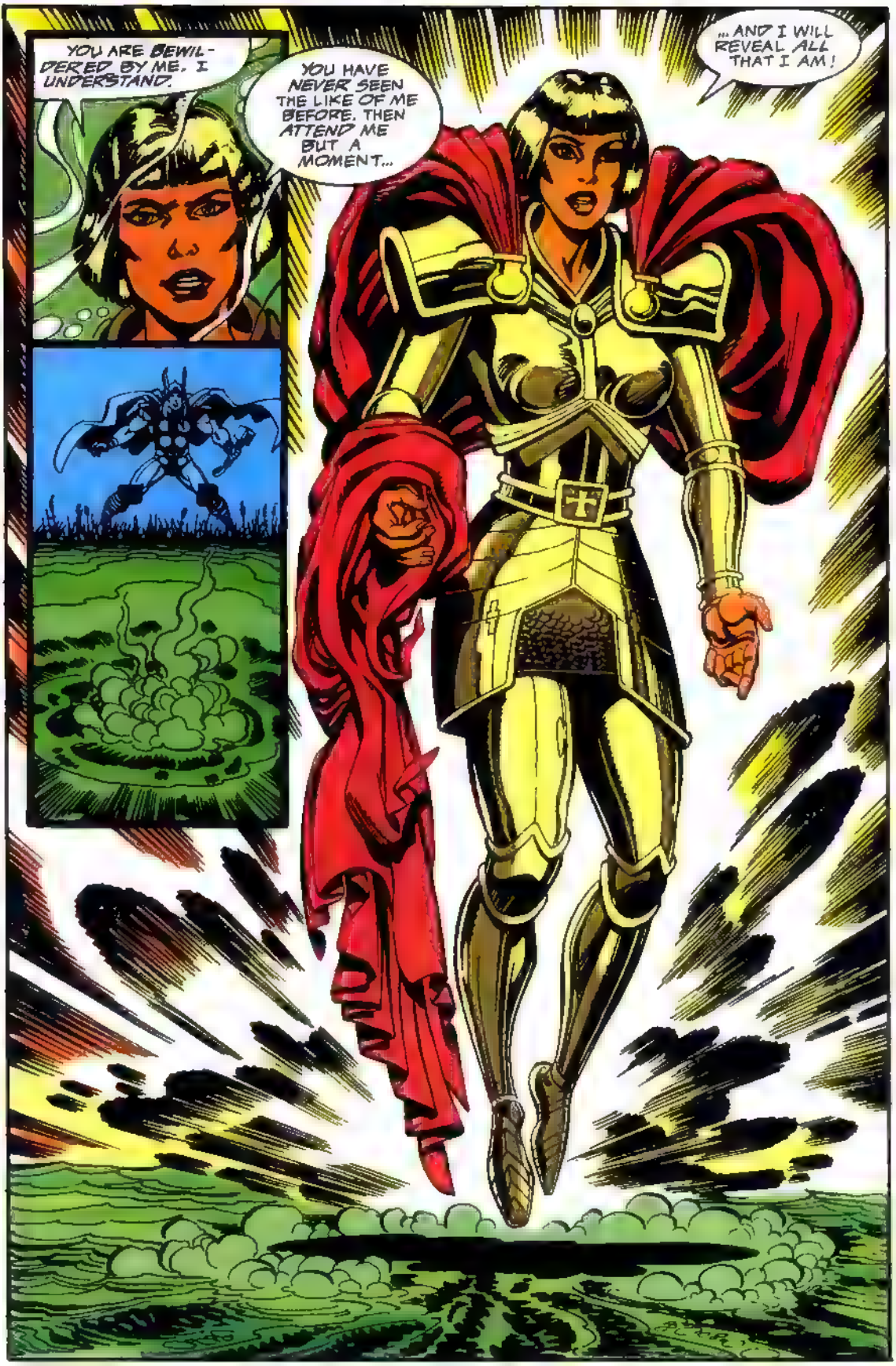
THE AGGRESSION OF THOR CANNOT BE EXCUSED.
WELL SAID, BROTHER. I TRUSTED YOU WOULD MAKE A WISE DECISION.
'TIS THE ONLY DECISION THAT COULD BE MADE.
THE THUNDERER HAS ATTACKED MY BROTHER, AND WORSE, BRUTALIZED MY SON. HE BRINGS THIS WRATH DOWN UPON HIMSELF.
ALL OLYMPUS CRIES OUT FOR VENGEANCE...
...AND VENGEANCE WE SHALL HAVE WHEN WE FIND THOR...

"...WHEREVER HE MAY BE!"
WE REST HERE, VALKYRIE. THIS PLANET HAS NO NAME THAT I KNOW, AND 'TIS PLAINLY UNINHABITED.
SEEMS AS LIKELY A PLACE AS ANY FOR A RESPITE.

INDEED, WE HAVE NOT "RESTED" SINCE PLUTO AND ARES SOUGHT TO CHALLENGE YOU
BUT NOW WE ARE ALONE, NO ENEMIES TO VEX US,
COME, MY PRINCE...
...LOVE ME.
'TIS AS IF WE ARE MEANT TO BE TOGETHER -- TWO WHO ARE AS ONE, TWO WHO SHARE THE SAME MIND, THE SAME --
THOR.


VALKYRIE? YOU HEARD THAT, DID YOU NOT?
A VOICE CALLING MY NAME?
IGNORE IT, MY LOVE. I'M SURE 'TIS NAUGHT BUT THE WIND YOU--
THOR.
THERE. AGAIN.
I HEARD IT CLEARLY THIS TIME, A WOMAN'S VOICE.
IT ISSUED FROM YONDER DIRECTION, YET I SEE NO ONE.
I MUST SEARCH OUT THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE.
NAY, THOR. STAY WITH ME. AM I NOT ALL THAT MATTERS TO YOU?
THOR?
METHINKS IT MUST HAVE COME FROM NEARBY POND. I.. SHALL RETURN, VALKYRIE, WITH HASTE, OF COURSE.

SCALES OF FAFNIR!
WHO ARE YOU?
I HAVE MANY NAMES, SON OF ASGARD. YOU WOULD PROBABLY BEST DEEM ME THE GODDESS.
OPEN YOURSELF UP, THOR, AND FEEL THE GRANDEUR AND THE POTENTIAL FOR UNIVERSAL NIRVANA WITHIN ME.
UM... WHAT?


YOU ARE BEWILDERED BY ME, I UNDERSTAND.
YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN THE LIKE OF ME BEFORE. THEN ATTEND ME BUT A MOMENT...
...AND I WILL REVEAL ALL THAT I AM!

I AM NOT CALLED THE GODDESS FRIVOLOUSLY. YOU, WHO ARE A GOD IN YOUR OWN RIGHT, MUST SURELY RECOGNIZE MY TRUE DIVINITY.
I AM ALL THAT IS GOOD, ALL THAT IS RIGHTEOUS, AND I HAVE COME TO SPREAD MY GOSPEL.
WITH YOUR HELP, I SHALL ELIMINATE THE EVILS THAT PLAGUE THIS UNIVERSE. ALL WILL BE SET RIGHT.
NO MORE WILL ONE MAN SUFFER UNDER THE HEEL OF ANOTHER... AS DID YOU FOR SO LONG, POOR THOR.
I BRING WITH ME A NEW DAWNING OF LOVE, AND TO USHER IT IN, I HAVE GATHERED A FAMILY WITH MEMBERS LIKE YOURSELF--HEROES ALL.
WE ARE STRONG, BUT THE WAY IS HARD, SO STRONGER WE MUST GROW I NEED YOU THOR.
I NEED YOU TO SERVE ME IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE.
BUT... I AM . MY OWN MAN NOW.

THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE DONE. YOU MUST NOT TELL ME NO.
I... I AM...
YOU MUST NOT
BACK FROM HIM, WHATEVER YOU MAY BE!
THOR HEEDS ONLY MY COUNSEL!
THIS IS THE VOICE TO WHICH YOU LISTEN?
I WELL YES, VALKYRIE SPEAKS THE TRUTH TO ME
IF THAT IS WHAT YOU BELIEVE
BUT, NO MATTER IF NEED BE, I WILL PLAY ALONG.

ENOUGH!
YOU SPEAK OF ME AS IF I WERE NOT EVEN HERE!
YES..
I SUPPOSE I DO.
CHANG!
YOU WILL IGNORE ME NO MORE!

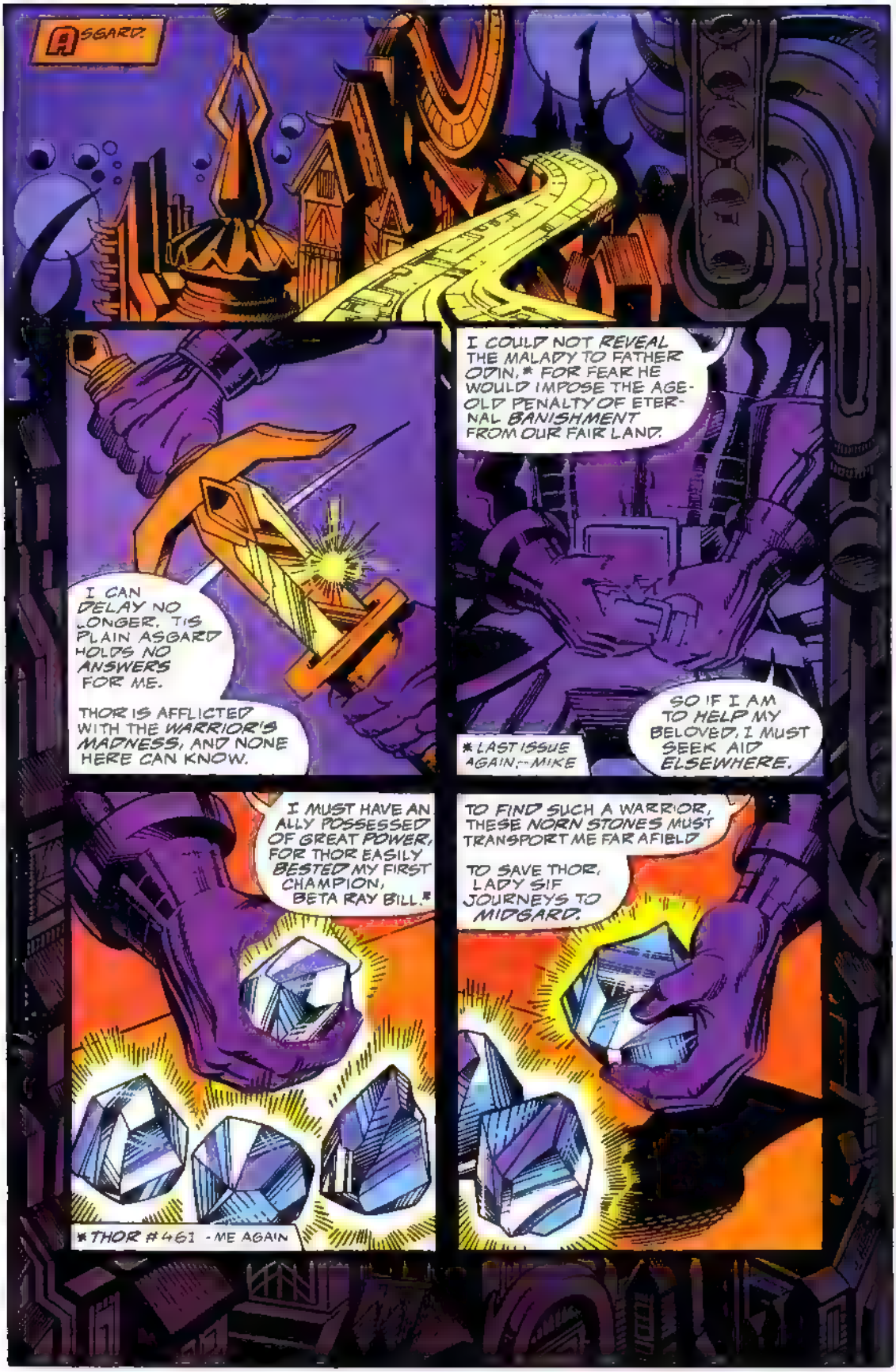
HEAR ME WHEN I SAY THOR IS NO LONGER ANYONE'S THRALL! HE LISTENS TO HIS OWN MIND!
YES, I CAN SEE THAT.
WHANG!
HE REVELS THAT HE IS FINALLY FREE OF ASGARD'S YOKE. HE DESIRES TO SERVE NO MASTER...
...MUCH LESS A SELF-PROCLAIMED GODDESS.
NO? I SENSE THOR NEEDS TRUE DIRECTION.
HE IS ADRIFT... AND ALONE.

DO YOU NOT SEE THAT HE HAS ME?!
KA-KLANG
I AM ALL THE GUIDANCE HE NEEDS! I AM THOR'S DIRECTION! DO YOU SEE?!
YES. I SEE MUCH.

DO NOT MOCK ME! I AM A SHIELD MAIDEN AND WILL SEE YOU DEAD BEFORE THOR FALLS UNDER YOUR SWAY!
KLANG!
CEASE!
THOOM!
CEASE. I WILL HAVE NO MORE OF THIS.
THOR?

THE WORDS OF THE GODDESS HAVE TOUCHED ME, AS HAS HER MISSION.
'TIS PLAIN SHE CAN BE TRUSTED. I JUDGE HER NEED OF ME TO BE GENUINE AND UNSELFISH
I WILL GO WITH HER.
YOU WILL?
OF COURSE HE WILL.
HER CAUSE IS JUST. A HOLY MISSION
'TWOULD BE SACRILEGE TO REFUSE
BUT... BUT MY SWEET PRINCE ... HOW CAN THIS BE?
WHAT OF THE VOWS YOU HAVE MADE?
YOU SWORE NEVER TO BOW TO ANOTHER MASTER, TO FOLLOW ONLY YOUR OWN DICTATES. HOW CAN--
WAIT 'TIS OBVIOUS NOW. SHE HAS BEWITCHED YOU SHE HAS-
I HAVE DONE NOTHING SAVE OPEN THE THUNDER GOD'S EYES.
BUT THOR, I AM AS YOUR OWN SOUL...

AND IN ORDER FOR HIM TO SERVE ME THAT SOUL MUST BE FREED OF YOU.
BUT.. VALKYRIE WAS TRUE TO ME SHE TOLD ME THE WORDS I NEEDED TO HEAR WHEN I FELT BROKEN IN BITS AND PIECES WE WERE...
..LOVERS
YOU NEED NO ONE ELSE NOW THAT I HAVE COME
PLEDGE YOURSELF TO ME, THOR. DO MY BIDDING WITH ALL YOUR HEART
... AND ALL YOUR NEEDS WILL BE FULFILLED.
AYE, GODDESS. I MUST BELIEVE YOU IF YOU SAY IT IS SO
... AND I MUST OBEY.


ASGARD.
I CAN DELAY NO LONGER. 'TIS PLAIN ASGARD HOLDS NO ANSWERS FOR ME.
THOR IS AFFLICTED WITH THE WARRIOR'S MADNESS, AND NONE HERE CAN KNOW.
I COULD NOT REVEAL THE MALADY TO FATHER ODIN,* FOR FEAR HE WOULD IMPOSE THE AGE-OLD PENALTY OF ETERNAL BANISHMENT FROM OUR FAIR LAND.
SO IF I AM TO HELP MY BELOVED, I MUST SEEK AID ELSEWHERE.
* LAST ISSUE AGAIN,--MIKE
I MUST HAVE AN ALLY POSSESSED OF GREAT POWER, FOR THOR EASILY BESTED MY FIRST CHAMPION, BETA RAY BILL.*
* THOR #461 - ME AGAIN
TO FIND SUCH A WARRIOR, THESE NORN STONES MUST TRANSPORT ME FAR AFIELD
TO SAVE THOR, LADY SIF JOURNEYS TO MIDGARD.

AND ONCE THERE, I PLACE MY HOPE IN THE HANDS OF A MORTAL--
--ERIC MASTERSON!
NEXT: FOLLOW SIF INTO THE PAGES OF THUNDERSTRIKE! AND, BACK HERE IN ONE MONTH, THOR JOINS THE REST OF THE GODDESS'S HEROES!

MARVEL
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AVENGERS WEST COAST

MANY ARE CALLED

YOU'VE HAD IT, SPIDER-WOMAN!

THRAKK!

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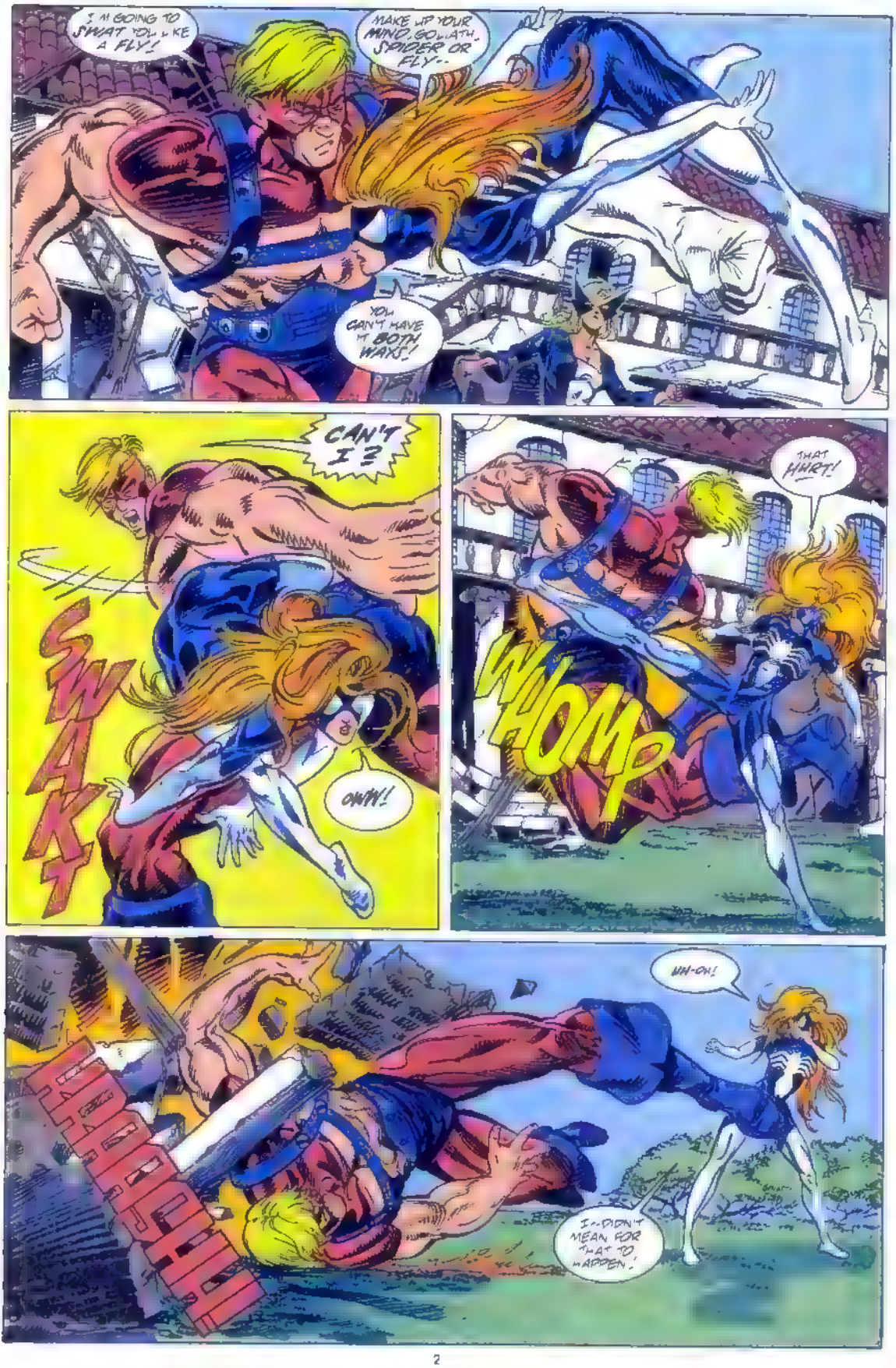
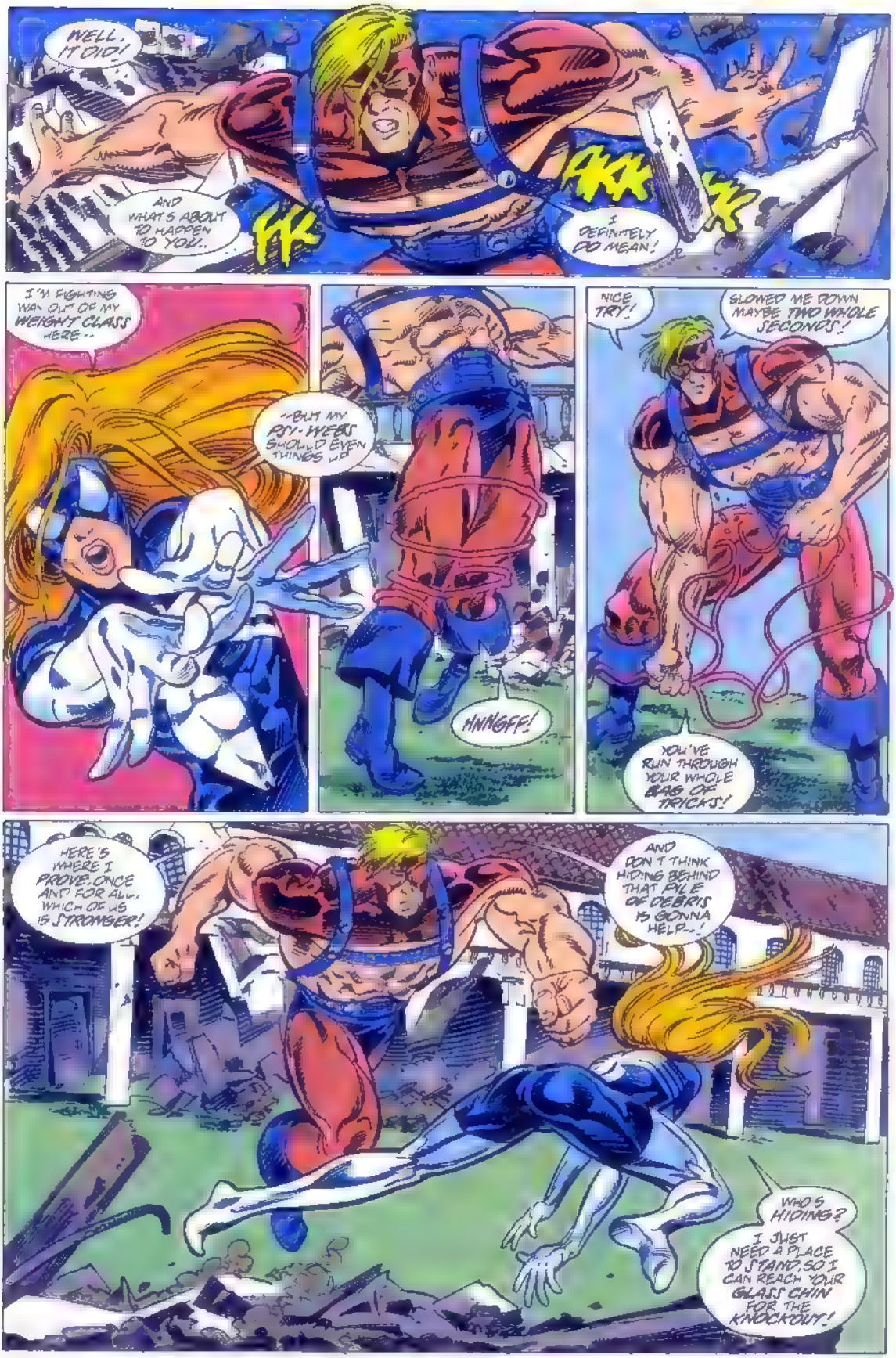
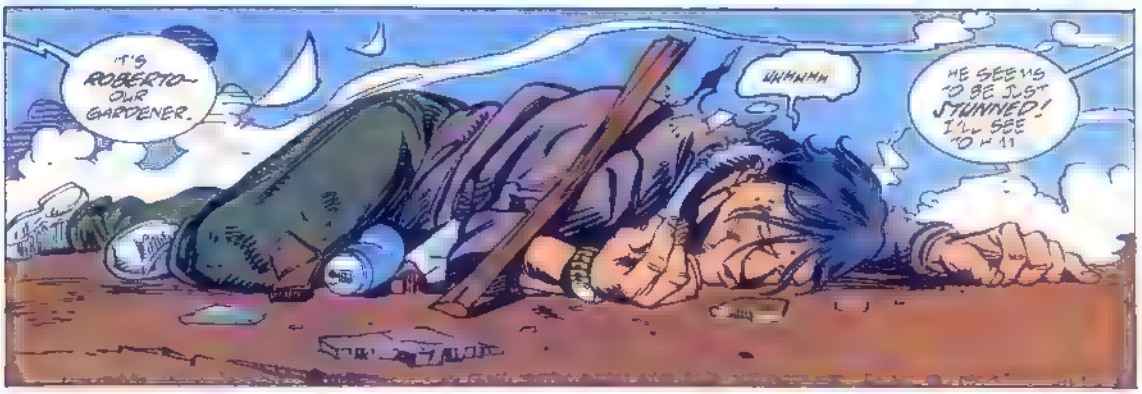
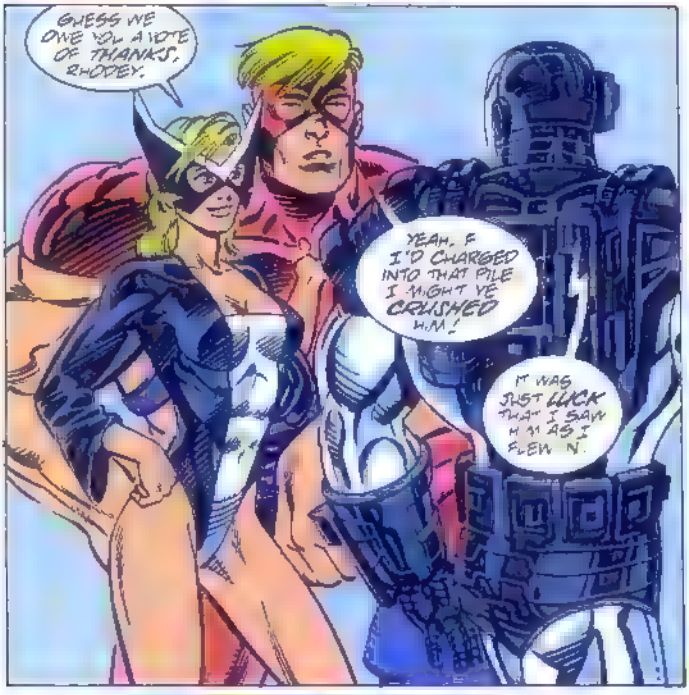
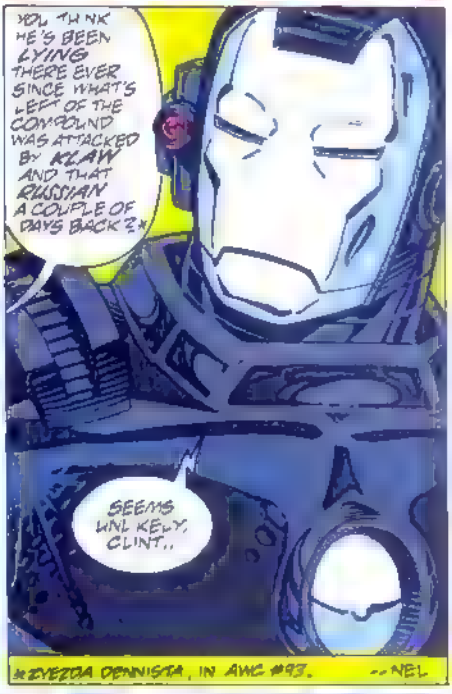

I'M GOING TO SWAT YOU LIKE A FLY!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND, GOLIATH, SPIDER OR FLY--
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS!
CAN'T I?
SWAKT
OWW!
THAT HURT!
WHOMP
UH-OH!
I--DIDN'T MEAN FOR THAT TO HAPPEN!


WELL, IT DID!
AND WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU..
FK
AKK
I DEFINITELY DO MEAN!
I'M FIGHTING WAY OUT OF MY WEIGHT CLASS HERE--
--BUT MY PSY-WEBS SHOULD EVEN THINGS UP
HNNGFF!
NICE TRY!
SLOWED ME DOWN MAYBE TWO WHOLE SECONDS!
YOU'VE RUN THROUGH YOUR WHOLE BAG OF TRICKS!
HERE'S WHERE I PROVE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, WHICH OF US IS STRONGER!
AND DON'T THINK HIDING BEHIND THAT PILE OF DEBRIS IS GONNA HELP--!
WHO'S HIDING?
I JUST NEED A PLACE TO STAND, SO I CAN REACH YOUR GLASS CHIN FOR THE KNOCKOUT!

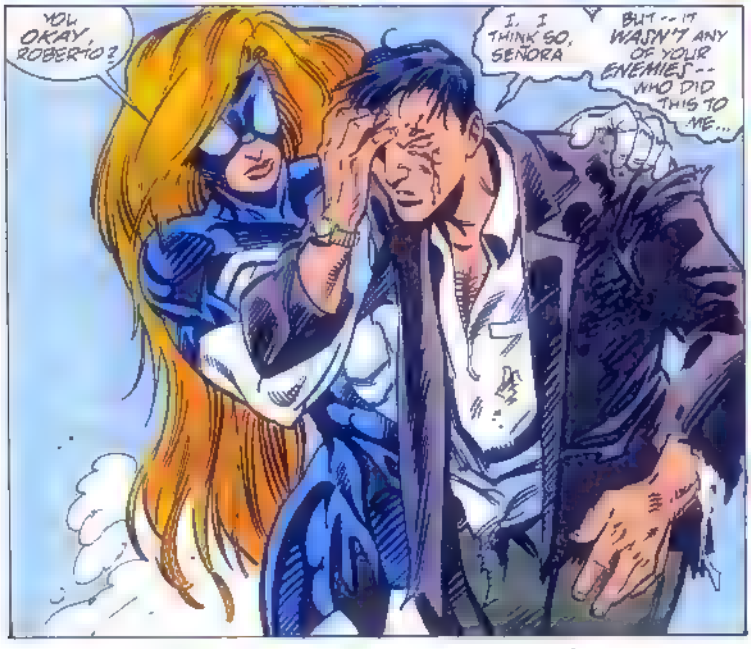
STOP IT!
SHRAK
OOOFH!
WH-WHO IN BLAZES--?
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA-- BUTTIN' IN LIKE THAT?
UP THERE CLINT!
HE DID IT?
SOMEBODY HAD TO!
SAYS YOU WAR MACHINE!
SPY AND ME WERE JUST SETTLING AN ARGUMENT OVER WHICH ONE IS STRONGER.
MAYBE WE BOTH GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY. BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN--
IF YOU'LL LET ME GET IN A WORD--
--I'LL SHOW YOU WHY I STOPPED THE TWO OF YOU FROM BUTTING HEADS--
--AVOID THIS HEAPING OF COMPOUND DEBRIS!
SHOOSH!
OKAY, TIN-TOP--SO YOU MAKE A GOOD LEAF-- BLOWER! WHAT'S THE--
HUH?
OHH!
WE-- DIDN'T SEE--!
BUT I DID--

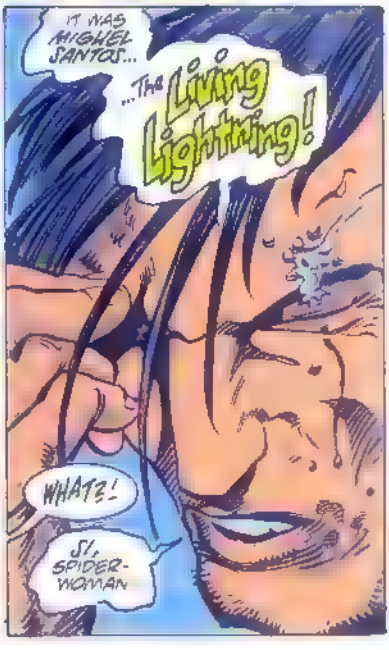



GUESS WE OWE YOU A TOTE OF THANKS, RHODEY.
YEAH. F I'D CHARGED INTO THAT PILE I MIGHT'VE CRUSHED H.M.!
IT WAS JUST LUCK THAT I SAW H 11 AS I FLEW IN.


YOU THINK HE'S BEEN LYING THERE EVER SINCE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE COMPOUND WAS ATTACKED BY KLAW AND THAT RUSSIAN A COUPLE OF DAYS BACK?!
SEEMS UNLIKELY, CLINT...

*EVEZDA DENNISTA, IN AWC #93. --NEL



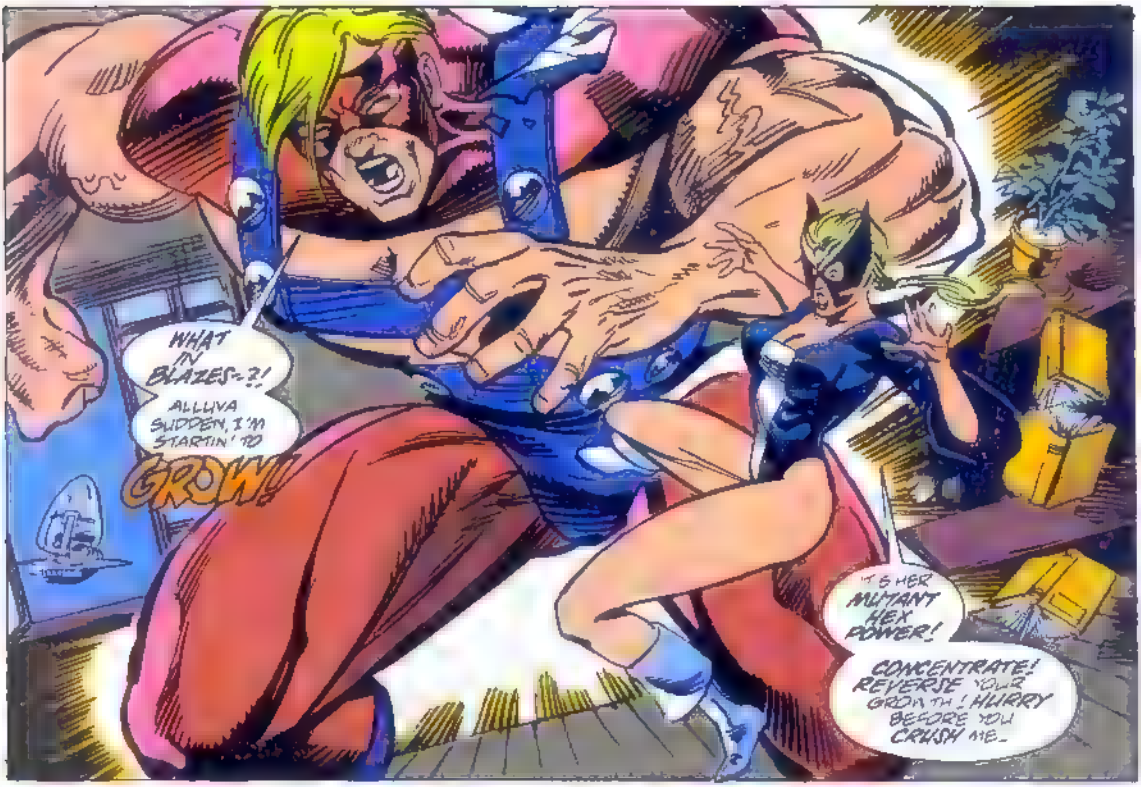


"I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HELPING CONSUELO AND YOUR LITTLE RACHEL GET SETTLED IN IN NEWPORT BEACH WHEN I HEARD HIS VOICE--VERY SOFT--FROM OUT BY THE POOL.
MADRE DE DIOS!
HE SEEMED TO BE STARING INTO THE SKY.
"...BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE--NOT EVEN A CLOUD!
MIGUEL,
MUST GO TO THE CHURCH
HE SEEMED IN A DAZE--AS IF HE DIDN'T HEAR ME
"SO I PUT MY HAND UPON HIS SHOULDER...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, HE TURNED INTO HIS ELECTRICAL FORM...
ZAP!
"...AND THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER..."
"...UNTIL YOU AWAKENED ME JUST NOW."
THERE WAS SO MUCH RUBBLE LYING AROUND FROM RECENT FIGHTS WE DIDN'T NOTICE ANY MORE.
SORRY, ROBERTO.
IT'S MIGUEL I'M WORRIED ABOUT, SENOR BARTON.
I WAS AS IF HE WERE IN A TRANCE--OR WITNESSING THE SECOND COMING!

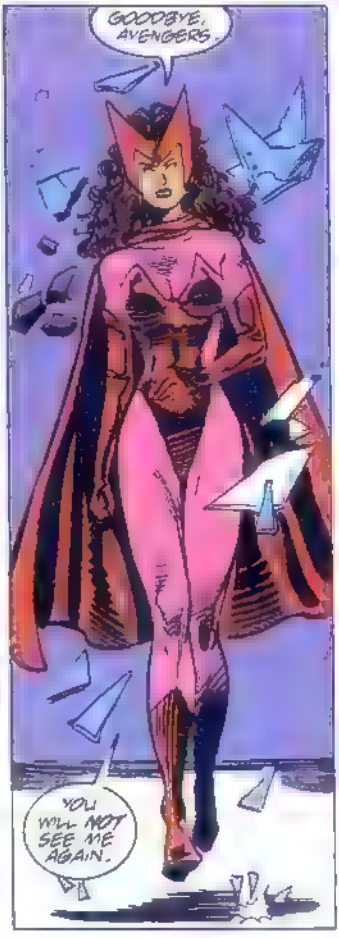
MAYBE HE WAS.
WE SHOULD CALL THE OTHERS-- LOOK INTO THIS--
GOOD IDEA U.S AGENT'S AT A BEVERLY HILLS PISTOL RANGE.
SINCE HE CAN'T OUT-POINT ME ON SHEER STRENGTH I GUESS HE WANTS TO GET AS TOUGH AS NAILS W TH A GUN AS I AM WITH A BOW AND ARROW.
SCARLET WITCH SAID SHE WANTED TO SPEND SOME TIME MEDITATING AT THE APARTMENT SHE KEEPS OFF-COMPOUND.
I'LL GIVE HER A CALL ON THE CAR PHONE
NO ANSWER
MAYBE SHE'S REALLY INTO THIS MEDITATION BIT.
WHILE CLINT AND I GO SEE IF SHE'S HOME JUST A-
-- MAYBE YOU COULD GO TALK TO MIGUEL'S MOTHER
RIGHT! MAYBE SHE CAN DIRECT ME TO THE CHURCH HE WAS TALKING ABOUT
AND I'LL SEE IF I CAN ROUST UP AGENT.
WE'LL ALL RENDEZVOUS BACK HERE SOON AS WE'VE GOT OUR QUORUM
IF WE DO LOVER CALL ME SUPERSTITIOUS, IF YOU WANT--
-- BUT I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

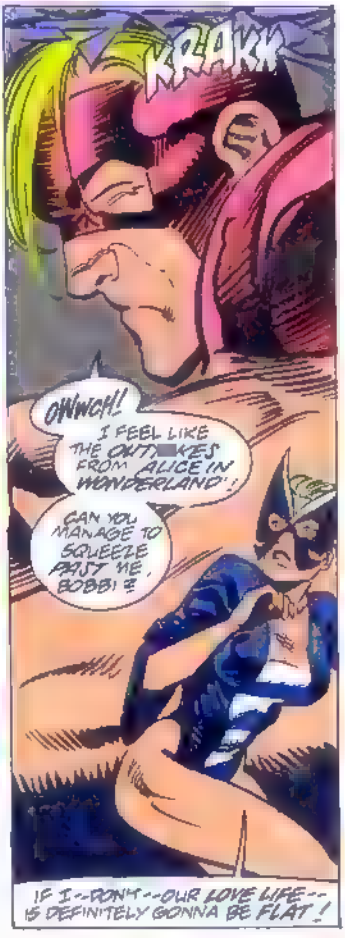
A SHORT TIME LATER
THERE IT IS, SWEET-CAKES! LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE BUNGALOWS ON THE COMPOUND, DOESN'T IT?
IT MIGHT-- IF HALF THE ROOF WERE GONE AND THERE WERE ENOUGH HOLES IN THE WALLS THAT THE TENANTS DIDN'T NEED AIR CONDITIONING.
LET'S SEE... YOU SAID WANDA LIVES ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THIS WING RIGHT?
THIS WINDOW I THINK. IN FACT--
"--I SEE HER IN THERE NOW--AND SHE'S IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE ANYWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF A BIG PENTAGRAM.
HER EYES ARE OPEN BUT SHE DON'T WEAR OUR SKY-CYCLES
SO I'LL SEE IF A RAP ON THE WINDOW GETS MORE OF A RESPONSE.
NOK NOK NOK
AND IF IT DOESN'T?
THEN, MUCH AS I HATE TO DISTURB HER--
NOTING
SET YOUR CYCLE ON HOVER, HONEY.
"...WE'RE GOING IN!"

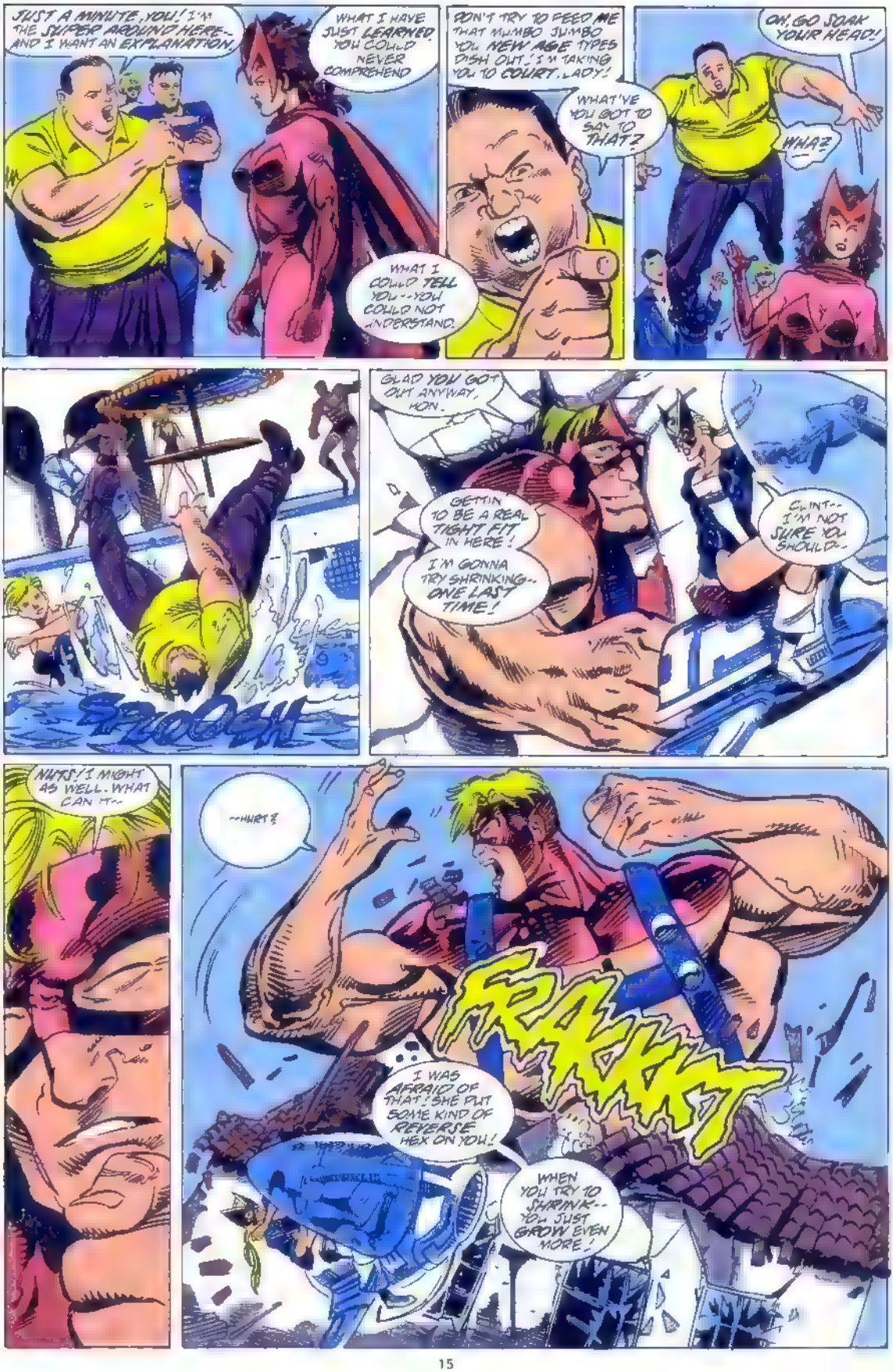
I DON'T LIKE THIS CLINT. SHE DIDN'T BAT AN EYEBROW WHEN WE FORCED THE WINDOW.
WE'LL BE LUCKY IF THE OTHER TENANTS DON'T CALL THE COPS ON US.
YO, WANDA! RISE AND SHINE--IT'S DAYLIGHT IN THE SWAMPS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UH, SORRY FOR INTRUDING LIKE THIS--
--BUT WE HAD TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE ALL RIGHT.
YOU SEE: MIGUEL'S GONE MISSING--AMONG OTHER THINGS.
YOU ARE OKAY, AREN'T YOU?
I WAS--UNTIL YOU TWO BURST IN HERE!
IN FACT, I NEVER FELT BETTER! I FEEL--ALIVE! TRANSCENDENT!
AS FOR MIGUEL--DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. I HAPPEN TO KNOW HE'S IN GOOD HANDS.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME I MUST BE GOING.
STOP HER, CLINT!
SORRY WANDA BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL YOU TELL US WHAT YOU MEANT BY--
LET GO OF ME! I SAID--
LET GO!


WHAT IN BLAZES--?!
ALL'VA SUDDEN, I'M STARTIN' TO
GROW!
IT'S HER MUTANT HEX POWER!
CONCENTRATE! REVERSE YOUR GROWTH! HURRY BEFORE YOU CRUSH ME--

THRAKK
I--I CAN'T!
LOOK OUT, EVERYBODY!
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN WHEN THIS PLACE WENT PUBLIC!


GOODBYE, AVENGERS.
YOU WILL NOT SEE ME AGAIN.


KRAKK
OWWCH!
I FEEL LIKE THE OUT[redacted]KES FROM ALICE IN WONDERLAND!
CAN YOU MANAGE TO SQUEEZE PAST ME, BOBBI?
IF I--RONK--OUR LOVE LIFE-- IS DEFINITELY GONNA BE FLAT!


JUST A MINUTE, YOU! I'M THE SUPERB AROUND HERE-- AND I WANT AN EXPLANATION!
WHAT I HAVE JUST LEARNED YOU COULD NEVER COMPREHEND
WHAT I COULD TELL YOU--YOU COULD NOT UNDERSTAND.
DON'T TRY TO FEED ME THAT MUMBO JUMBO YOU NEW AGE TYPES DISH OUT. I'M TAKING YOU TO COURT, LADY!
WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO SAY TO THAT?
OH, GO SOAK YOUR HEAD!
WHAT--
SPLOOSH
GLAD YOU GOT OUT ANYWAY, HON.
GETTIN TO BE A REAL TIGHT FIT IN HERE!
I'M GONNA TRY SHRINKING-- ONE LAST TIME!
CLINT-- I'M NOT SURE YOU SHOULD--
NUTS! I MIGHT AS WELL. WHAT CAN IT--
--HURT?
FRAKK
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! SHE PUT SOME KIND OF REVERSE HEX ON YOU!
WHEN YOU TRY TO SHRINK-- YOU JUST GROW EVEN MORE!

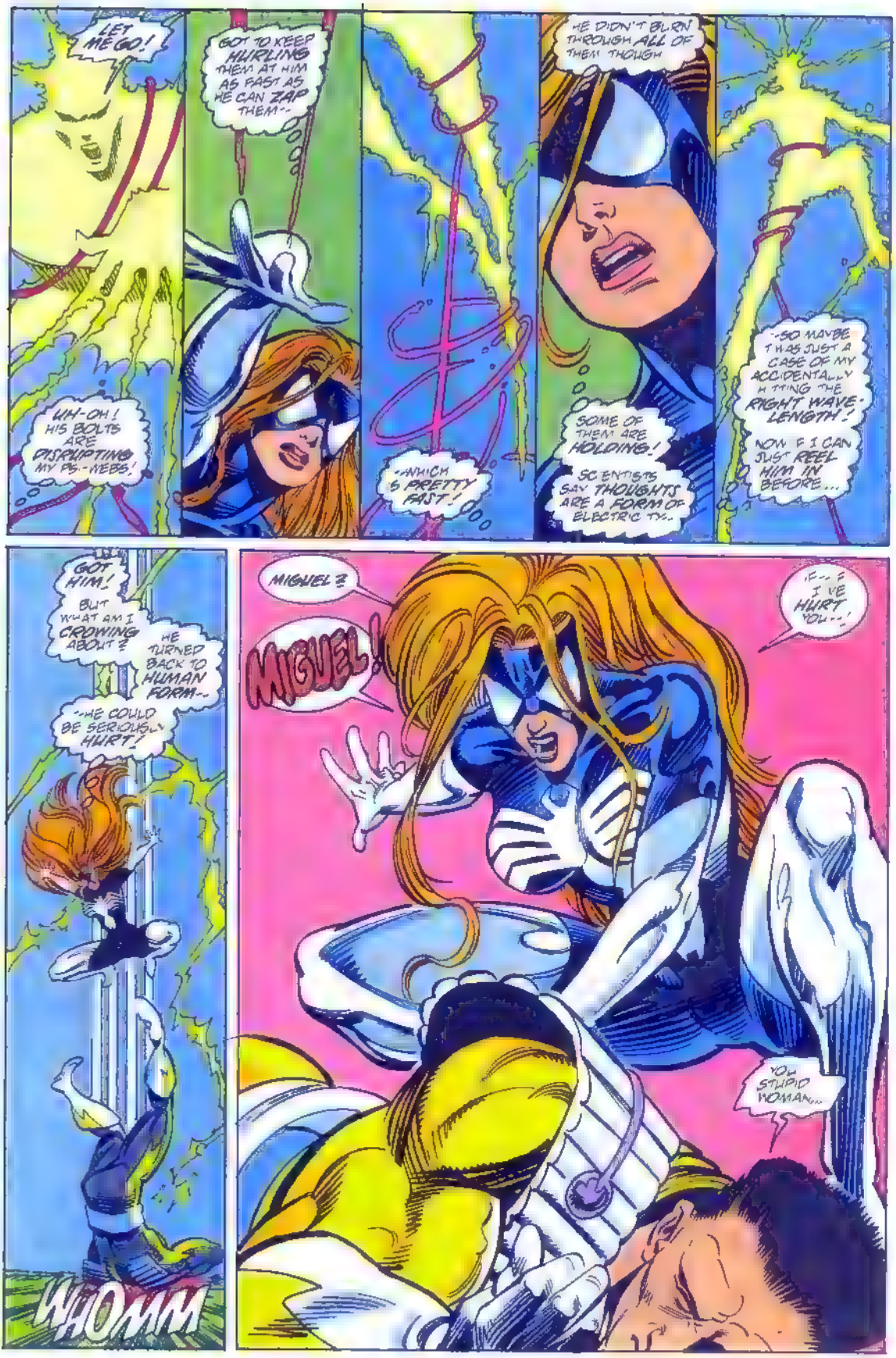
I'M AFRAID TONY STARK-- OR THE U.N.--OR SOMEBODY--BETTER REALLY HAVE DEEP POCKETS FOR THIS ONE!
BUT LOOK! THERE'S WANDA--STILL ENTRANCED!
THAT CAR--IT CAN'T STOP! IT'S GONNA RUN RIGHT INTO HER!
WE'VE GOT TO--
SKREE
SHE'S-- GONE!
THAT HOLE JUST OPENED UP IN MIDAIR-- AND SWALLOWED HER!
CLINT-- WATCH OUT!
WHY? WHAT'S WRONNNN--
OH, YEAH. THE CAR.
AT LEAST THE DRIVER WASN'T HURT!
THE HECK I WASN'T!
I'VE PROBABLY GOT TEN KINDS OF WHIPLASH!
UH, YOU GUYS ARE AVENGERS AREN'T YOU?
YEAH-- THOSE OF US THAT'RE LEFT.
WANDA ACTED JUST LIKE ROBERTO SAID LIGHTNING DID.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?
WHATEVER IT IS--WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT STANDING AROUND HERE!

"I WONDER HOW WAR MACHINE'S MAKING OUT WITH EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE RIGHT-WING SOCIOPATH, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS--"
--U.S AGENT? YOU SEE IRON MAN? IT'S LIKE I SAID HE'S BEEN STANDING STARK STILL LIKE THAT FOR TWENTY MINUTES!
I'M NOT IRON MAN. THE NAME IS WAR MACHINE.
WHATEVER
HE WAS EXAMINING THE TARGET WHEN HE SUDDENLY JUST FROZE UP LIKE THAT. HE'S DISTURBING THE OTHER SHOOTERS--
--AND I WANT HIM OUT!
I DON'T CARE IF HE IS AN AVENGER--GET HIM OUT OF--
WHOA!
AGENT--!
I'M--HOLDING--A GUN.
TH-THAT YOU ARE SIR! P-PLEASE--DON'T--
SHE DOES NOT LIKE GUNS.
SKRUNCH
"SHE"? MIND TELLING ME WHAT'S GOING ON, AGENT?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR AFFAIR. I MUST GO NOW.
IN MY NEXT LIFE, I WANT TO COME BACK AS A CROSSING GUARD.
YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF AVENGER--SO YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE--
--TILL YOU AND I HAVE A LITTLE TALK.

THE TIME FOR TALK--
OOOPH!
SLAMMM!
--IS OVER!
SLAM!
OUT OF MY WAY, MAN--
THAT WALL-- IT'S GOING TO COLLAPSE!
GOOD LORD-- YOU'RE RIGHT!
GET EVERYONE OUT-- FAST!
I'LL KEEP IT FROM FALLING UNTIL YOU CLEAR THE PLACE!
BUT BY THAT TIME HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIVING LIGHTNING HAS ALSO HIT U.S. AGENT-- BUT NOT ME OR THE OTHER AVENGERS WEST

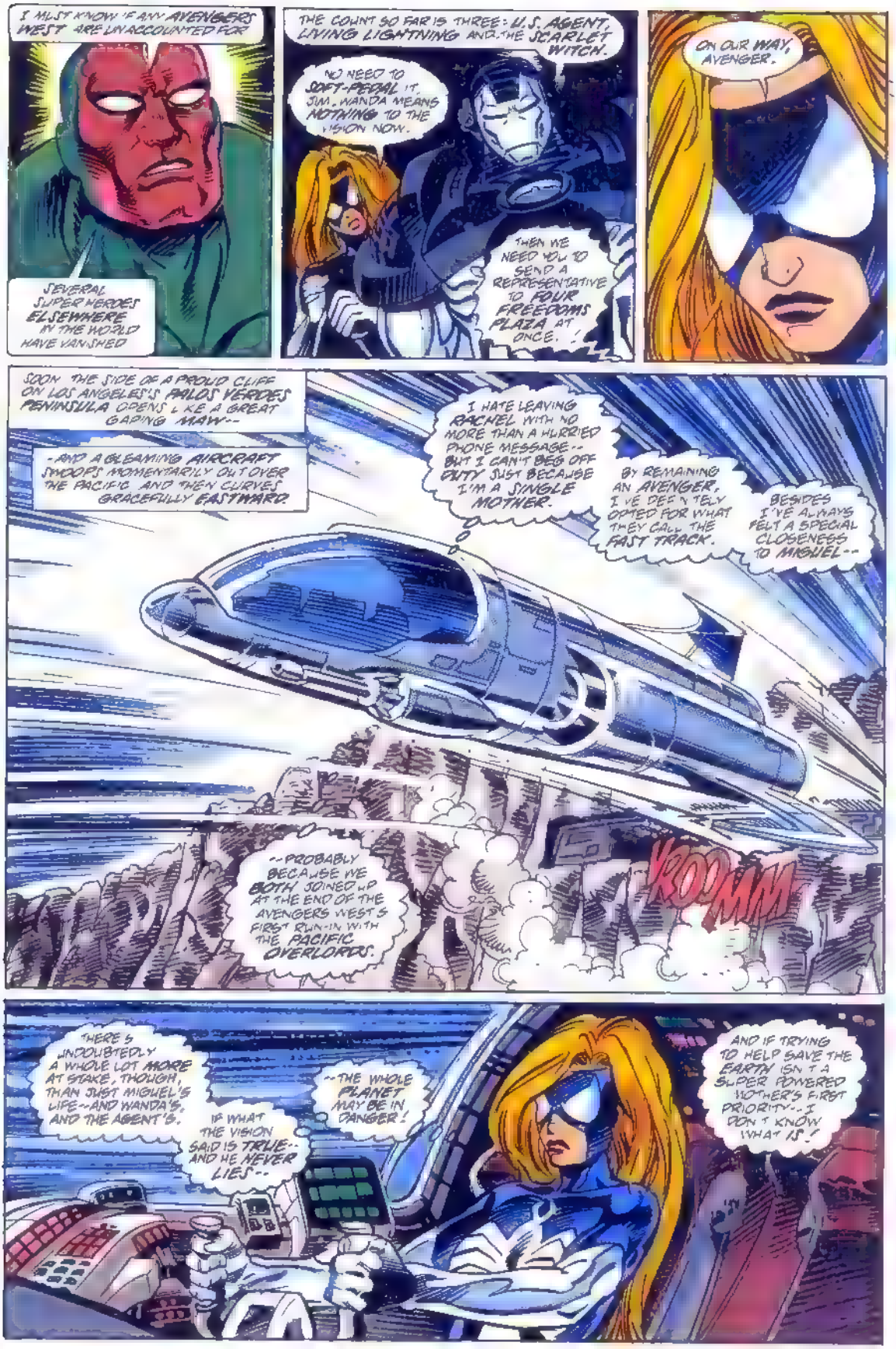
"WHAT'S THE COMMON DENOMINATOR HERE?"
MRS SANTOS WAS WORKING-- BUT A NEIGHBOR SAID THIS IS THE FAMILY CHURCH.
THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN IT WAS THE ONE ROBERTO HEARD MIGUEL REFER TO--
--BUT I'VE GOT TO START SOMEWHERE.
FATHER? I'M SPIDER-WOMAN OF THE AVENGERS WEST COAST. EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR--
MIGUEL SANTOS, YES?
THEN-- HE'S HERE?
SI. HE HAS BEEN SILENTLY PRAYING LIKE THAT-- WITHOUT MOVING--FOR OVER AN HOUR.
I DO NOT WISH TO DISTURB ANYONE IN THE MIDST OF WORSHIP--BUT IF YOU THINK IT BEST...
I'LL HANDLE THIS FATHER-- IF YOU DON'T MIND, THAT IS
OF COURSE
I WILL COME WITH YOU.
TALK ABOUT TIMING! HE'S GETTING UP.
MIGUEL ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE'VE ALL BEEN VERY WORRIED.
MIGUEL?
SHE SAID--THE FIRE THAT IS WITHIN ME CAN--
--EXPEL THE DARKNESS!
KRAKKK
KKKLLLL
OHHHH!
HE HAS BECOME THE LIGHTNING!

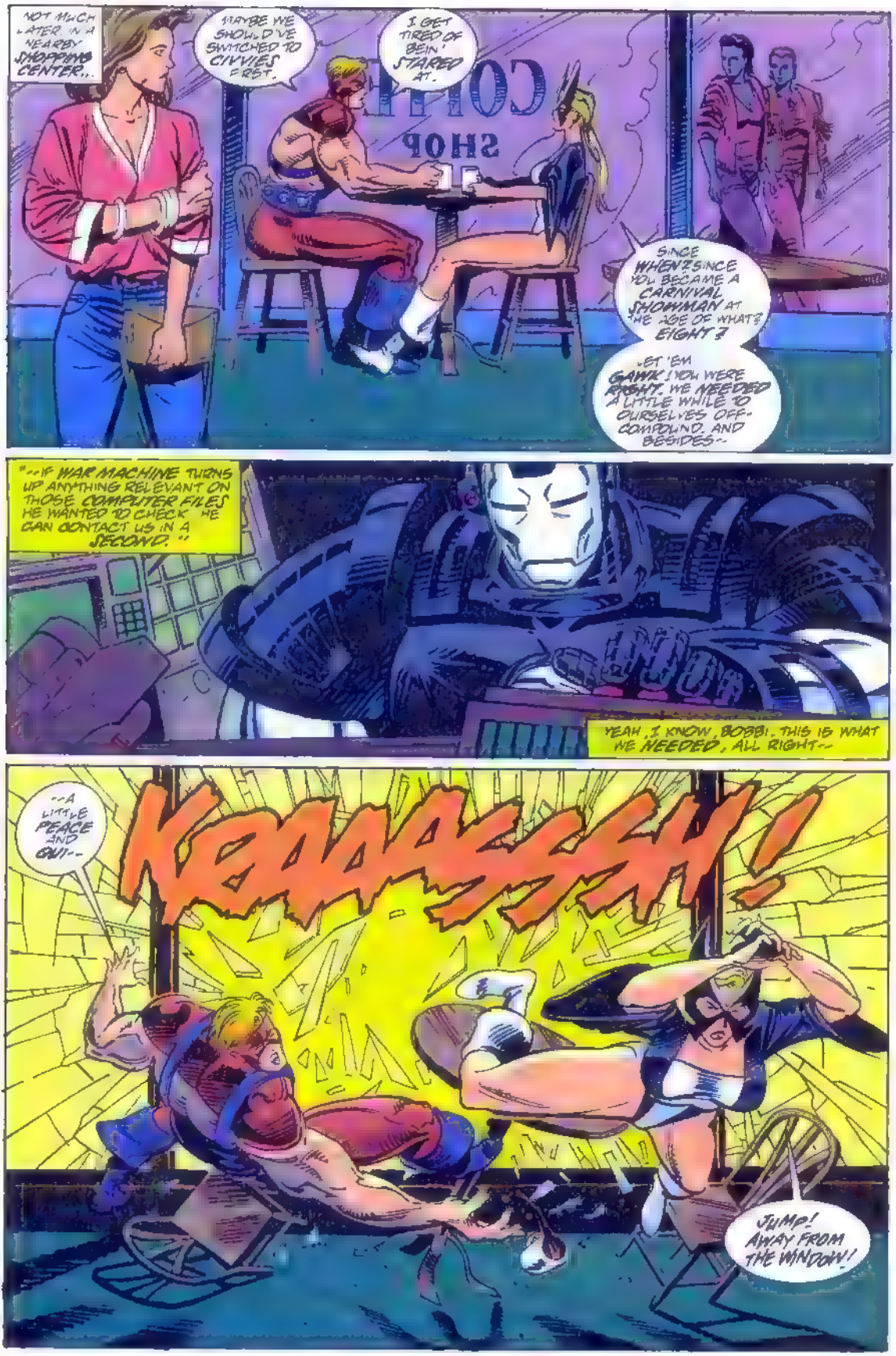
I MUST GO TO HER--
NOW!
NO, MIKHEL! COME BACK!
IT'S NO USE! HE DOESN'T EVEN HEAR ME!
HE WENT RIGHT THROUGH THAT STAINED-GLASS WINDOW!
IF I GRAB HIM IT'LL BE LIKE SHAKING HANDS WITH A LIGHT SOCKET.
MY ONLY SHOT IS MY PSYCHIC WEBS!
BEING FORMED OF PURE THOUGHT-- HOPEFULLY THEY WON'T CONDUCT ANY ELECTRICITY BACK MY WAY!


LET ME GO!
GOT TO KEEP HURLING THEM AT HIM AS FAST AS HE CAN ZAP THEM--
UH-OH! HIS BOLTS ARE DISRUPTING MY PS-WEBS!
-WHICH IS PRETTY FAST!
HE DIDN'T BURN THROUGH ALL OF THEM THOUGH
SOME OF THEM ARE HOLDING!
SCIENTISTS SAY THOUGHTS ARE A FORM OF ELECTRIC TY--
-SO MAYBE THAT WAS JUST A CASE OF MY ACCIDENTALLY HITTING THE RIGHT WAVE-LENGTH!
NOW IF I CAN JUST REEL HIM IN BEFORE...
GOT HIM!
BUT WHAT AM I CROWING ABOUT?
HE TURNED BACK TO HUMAN FORM--
-HE COULD BE SERIOUSLY HURT!
WHOMM
MIGUEL?
MIGUEL!
IF--IF I'VE HURT YOU--
YOU STUPID WOMAN...

DID YOU THINK SHE WOULD LET YOU HURT ME?
KRAKKL
NOW I GO--
--TO JOIN HER.
MIGUEL-- PLEASE--
COME BACK
MAY GOD FORGIVE YOU MY SON, FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE THIS DAY!
THAT'S NOT, WHAT BOTHERS ME, FATHER.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO...!
ER-- ARE THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS MY DAUGHTER?
WE SAW THE TAIL END OF WHAT HAPPENED-- BUT WE COULDN'T CATCH YOUNG SANTOS BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED INTO A SPACE WARP OF SOME KIND.
WHATEVER'S GOING ON IT'S CLAIMED THREE AVENGERS SO FAR-- THAT WE KNOW ABOUT!
YOU ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-WOMAN?
JUST HAD A V---E TOO MUCH SHOCK THERAPY, MOCK
GOOD THING THAT SPIDER-SERUM GAVE ME RECUPERATIVE POWERS THOUGH OR I'D BE A BASKET CASE.
DID I HEAR YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT-- THREE AVENGERS?
WANDA'S GONE-- SAME SYMPTOMS AS MIGUEL AND THE SAME ESCAPE ROUTE.
DITTO FOR U.S. AGENT. UH-- DID E THER -IGHTN NG OR THE SCARLET WITCH MENTION A MYSTERIOUS "SHE"?
WANDA DIDN'T-- BUT SHE SEEMED TO KNOW ALL ABOUT MIGUEL'S CONDITION, SO--
:KRAKKL:--AVENGERS WEST? THIS IS THE VISION IN NEW YORK--
THERE'S TROUBLE WE NEVER HEAR FROM THOSE GUYS UNLESS THEY WANT SOMETHING!
I PREFER TO IGNORE THAT BARD, MOCKINGBIRD.


I MUST KNOW IF ANY AVENGERS WEST ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR.
SEVERAL SUPER HEROES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE VANISHED
THE COUNT SO FAR IS THREE: U.S. AGENT, LIVING LIGHTNING AND THE SCARLET WITCH.
NO NEED TO SOFT-PEDAL IT, JIM. WANDA MEANS NOTHING TO THE VISION NOW.
THEN WE NEED YOU TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA AT ONCE.
ON OUR WAY, AVENGER.
SOON THE SIDE OF A PROUD CLIFF ON LOS ANGELES'S PALOS VERDES PENINSULA OPENS LIKE A GREAT GAPING MAW--
--AND A GLEAMING AIRCRAFT SWOOPS MOMENTARILY OUT OVER THE PACIFIC AND THEN CURVES GRACEFULLY EASTWARD.
I HATE LEAVING RACHEL WITH NO MORE THAN A HURRIED PHONE MESSAGE-- BUT I CAN'T BEG OFF DUTY JUST BECAUSE I'M A SINGLE MOTHER.
BY REMAINING AN AVENGER, I'VE DEFINITELY OPTED FOR WHAT THEY CALL THE FAST TRACK.
BESIDES I'VE ALWAYS FELT A SPECIAL CLOSENESS TO MIGUEL--
--PROBABLY BECAUSE WE BOTH JOINED UP AT THE END OF THE AVENGERS WEST'S FIRST RUN-IN WITH THE PACIFIC OVERLORDS.
KROOMM
THERE'S UNDOUBTEDLY A WHOLE LOT MORE AT STAKE, THOUGH, THAN JUST MIGUEL'S LIFE--AND WANDA'S, AND THE AGENT'S.
IF WHAT THE VISION SAID IS TRUE-- AND HE NEVER LIES--
--THE WHOLE PLANET MAY BE IN DANGER!
AND IF TRYING TO HELP SAVE THE EARTH ISN'T A SUPER POWERED MOTHER'S FIRST PRIORITY--I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!


NOT MUCH LATER, IN A NEARBY SHOPPING CENTER...
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE SWITCHED TO CIVVIES FIRST.
I GET TIRED OF BEIN' STARED AT.
SHOP
SINCE WHEN? SINCE YOU BECAME A CARNIVAL SHOWMAN AT THE AGE OF WHAT? EIGHT?
LET 'EM GAWK! YOU WERE RIGHT. WE NEEDED A LITTLE WHILE TO OURSELVES OFF-COMPOUND. AND BESIDES--
"--IF WAR MACHINE TURNS UP ANYTHING RELEVANT ON THOSE COMPUTER FILES HE WANTED TO CHECK, HE CAN CONTACT US IN A SECOND."
YEAH, I KNOW, BOBBI. THIS IS WHAT WE NEEDED, ALL RIGHT--
--A LITTLE PEACE AND QUI--
KRAAAASH!
JUMP! AWAY FROM THE WINDOW!

CLINT-- THOSE MUST BE THE CLOWNS WHO BUSTED THAT PLATE GLASS!
BUT WHO THE DEVIL--?
JUST-- CATCH MY BREATH MOCK I--
UH, I HOPE YOU PLAN TO CATCH IT FAST--
--CAUSE I THINK THE EARTH JUST GOT A VISIT FROM QUANTUM'S POWER PLATOON!
NEXT: THE INFINITY CRUSADE CONTINUES BUT HOW DO THESE REFUGEES FROM QUASAR #14 FIT IN?

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DOWN IN THE DEPTHS OF CHAOS!
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WELCOME TO MY WORLD, THOR, A MONUMENT TO ALL THE GOODNESS THAT IS THE GODDESS. WELCOME TO--
--PARADISE OMEGA.
BY ODIN!
IF YOU HAVEN'T READ INFINITY CRUSADE #2, DO IT NOW!

THE MIGHTY THOR® Vol. 1, No. 464, July, 1993. (ISSN #0274-533X) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $15.00; foreign $27.00; and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE MIGHTY THOR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE MIGHTY THOR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.

FROM IMMORTAL ASGARD HE HAILS—THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THEM ALL. SON OF THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN. WIELDER OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER, MJOLNIR. HE IS THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER, MASTER OF THE STORM AND LIGHTNING. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE MIGHTY THOR!
BLESSED OBEDIENCE
NO, THOR. YOU HAVE NEED OF THAT OATH NO LONGER.
I AM ALL YOU WILL EVER REQUIRE.
THIS, THIS STRUCTURE. 'TIS
RON MARZ.... WRITER
BRUCE ZICK.... PENCILS
MIKE DECARLO..... INKS
PHIL FELIX..... LETTERS
GEORGE ROUSSOS, COLORS
MIKE ROCKWITZ.. EDITOR
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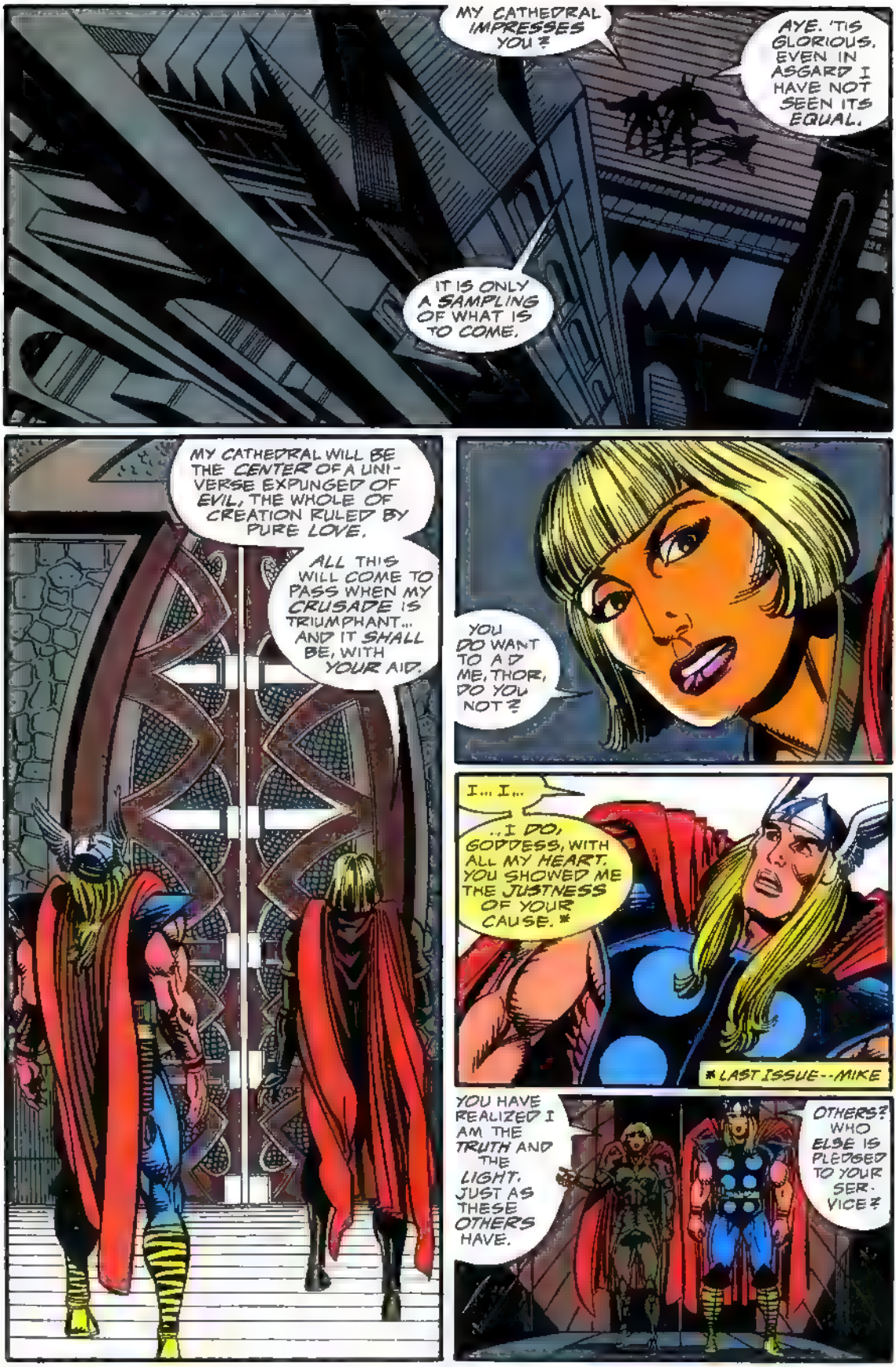
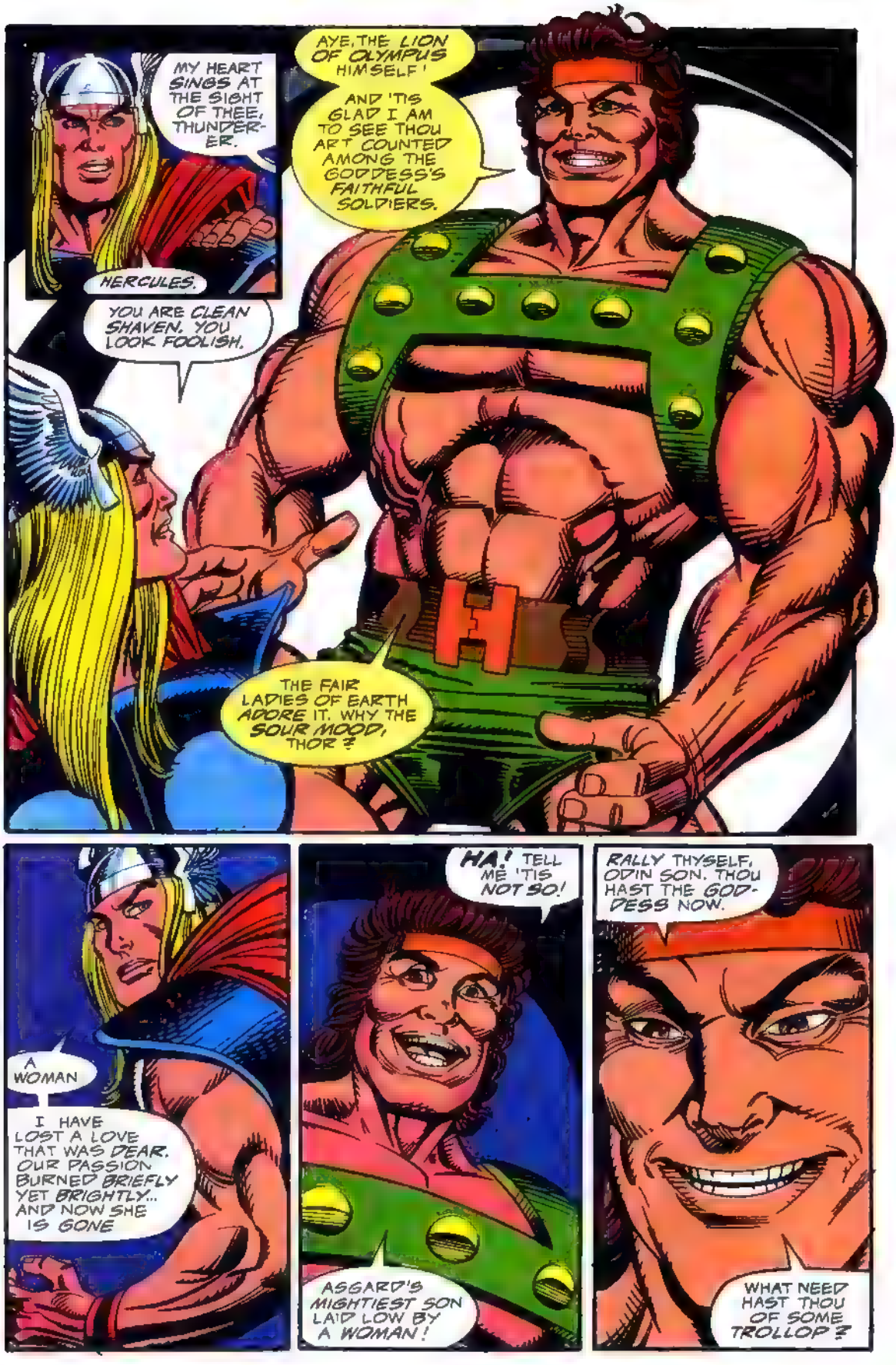

MY CATHEDRAL IMPRESSES YOU?
AYE. 'TIS GLORIOUS. EVEN IN ASGARD I HAVE NOT SEEN ITS EQUAL.
IT IS ONLY A SAMPLING OF WHAT IS TO COME.
MY CATHEDRAL WILL BE THE CENTER OF A UNIVERSE EXPUNGED OF EVIL, THE WHOLE OF CREATION RULED BY PURE LOVE.
ALL THIS WILL COME TO PASS WHEN MY CRUSADE IS TRIUMPHANT... AND IT SHALL BE, WITH YOUR AID.
YOU DO WANT TO AID ME, THOR, DO YOU NOT?
I... I...
...I DO, GODDESS, WITH ALL MY HEART. YOU SHOWED ME THE JUSTNESS OF YOUR CAUSE.*
*LAST ISSUE--MIKE
YOU HAVE REALIZED I AM THE TRUTH AND THE LIGHT. JUST AS THESE OTHERS HAVE.
OTHERS? WHO ELSE IS PLEDGED TO YOUR SERVICE?

THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE UNIVERSAL NIRVANA COME TO PASS.
HEROES OF EARTH!
SOME YOU KNOW, OTHERS MAY BE UNFAMILIAR. BUT ALL ARE COMMITTED TO MY DIVINE CAUSE.
ALL ARE PREPARED TO TAKE UP ARMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MY BANNER.

WHO WOULD OPPOSE US? SURELY ALL CAN SEE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF YOUR CRUSADE
THERE ARE DOUBTERS, THE UNCONVERTED, WHO REFUSE TO SEE THE LIGHT --
--MY LIGHT.
THEY TURN AWAY FROM ALL I HAVE TO OFFER...
AND YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO REFUSE ME.
VALKYR.E...
HER FATE WAS UNAVOIDABLE. IN ALL GREAT VENTURES THERE ARE CASUALTIES--CASUALTIES WHO ARE OFTEN THOSE WHO REBEL AGAINST THE NEW ORDER.
YOU UNDERSTAND MY MEANING?
AYE, GODDESS. 'TIS JUST... SHE WAS... WAS...
DO NOT THINK UPON IT, THOR. INSTEAD, BE JOYFUL, AS ARE MY OTHER FOLLOWERS.
I LEAVE YOU NOW, TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARADISE I SHALL CREATE.
BUT STAY NEAR. SOON I WILL HAVE NEED OF YOU.
AS YOU WISH, GODDESS.


MY HEART SINGS AT THE SIGHT OF THEE, THUNDERER.
HERCULES.
AYE, THE LION OF OLYMPUS HIMSELF!
AND 'TIS GLAD I AM TO SEE THOU ART COUNTED AMONG THE GODDESS'S FAITHFUL SOLDIERS.
YOU ARE CLEAN SHAVEN. YOU LOOK FOOLISH.
THE FAIR LADIES OF EARTH ADORE IT. WHY THE SOUR MOOD, THOR?
A WOMAN
I HAVE LOST A LOVE THAT WAS DEAR. OUR PASSION BURNED BRIEFLY YET BRIGHTLY... AND NOW SHE IS GONE
HA! TELL ME 'TIS NOT SO!
ASGARD'S MIGHTIEST SON LAID LOW BY A WOMAN!
RALLY THYSELF, ODIN SON. THOU HAST THE GODDESS NOW.
WHAT NEED HAST THOU OF SOME TROLLOP?

MIND YOUR TONGUE, DOG OF OLYMPUS, LEST I RIP IT OUT!
BTHOOOOOOOM!

OBVIOUSLY THOU HAST MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE GODDESS'S LOVE. I SHALL TEACH THEE.
HAVE AT THEE!
PWOOM!
THOU ART PLEDGED TO THE GODDESS, YET THOU SHOWEST NONE OF HER LOVE.
MAYHAP I MUST BEAT IT INTO THEE!

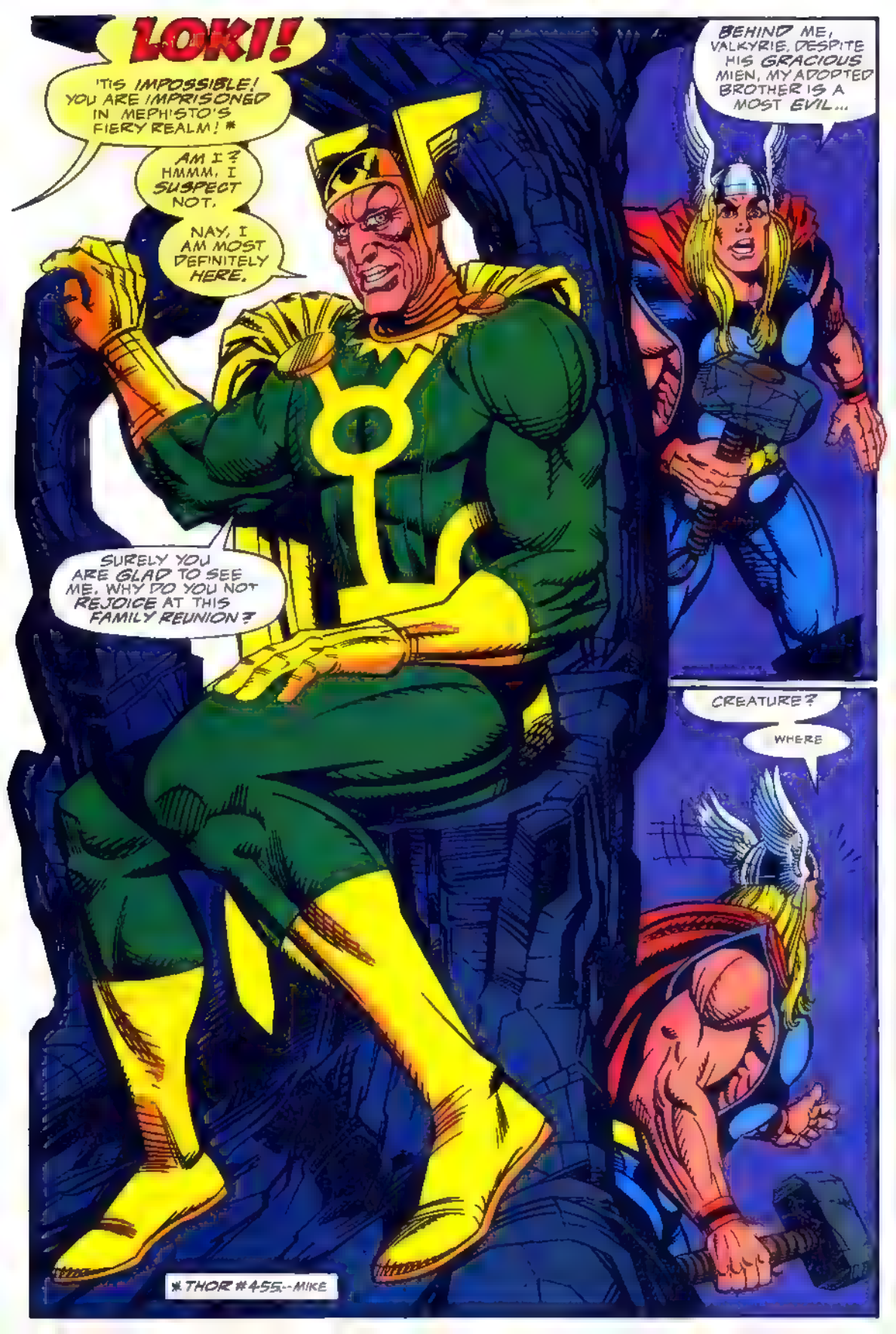
I WILL SERVE HER, BUT NOT BESIDE A CHURLISH OLYMPIAN!
NOW HAVE AT ME, HERCULES! COME RECEIVE MJOLNIR'S TENDER MERCIES!
I WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS!
YOUR BEHAVIOR IS SACRILEGIOUS! WE MUST BE UNITED IF MY GOSPEL IS TO BE SPREAD, NOT BICKERING LIKE UNBELIEVERS!
AYE, GODDESS, MY ACTIONS SHAME ME.
I BEG THY FORGIVENESS.

I, TOO, ASK YOUR MERCY.
I AM... IN TURMOIL STILL. ALL I HAVE ENDURED.. MY SELF BROKEN TO BITS AND PIECES..
VALKYRIE'S DEMISE..
I KNOW, TROUBLED PRINCE. BUT YOU MUST OVERCOME SUCH TRIBULATIONS IF YOU ARE TO SERVE ME WELL
I.. WILL TRY, GODDESS.
OF COURSE YOU WILL. ALL YOU NEED IS TIME TO PROPERLY MEDITATE UPON YOUR DEVOTION.
SILENCE AND SOLITUDE CAN BE FOUND IN THE CATACOMBS BENEATH MY CATHEDRAL.
I WILL... FIND WHAT IT IS YOU WISH ME TO.
DESCEND TO THEM. LOOK WITHIN YOURSELF FOR PIETY.
AYE, GODDESS.
AND PERHAPS THE DEPTHS WILL HOLD SOMETHING OF INTEREST FOR YOU.

OLYMPUS.
WE MUST NOT BE FOUND OUT.
THUS FAR ZEUS BELIEVES EVERY WORD I SPEAK IN HIS EAR.
HIS OUTRAGE OVER YOUR INJURIES MAKES HIM FORGET ANY MISGIVINGS ABOUT MY TRUSTWORTHINESS.
EVEN NOW, HE PONDERS WHAT ACTION TO TAKE AGAINST CURSED THOR.
WITH A BIT OF ENCOURAGEMENT, I BELIEVE HE WILL BE CONVINCED TO METE OUT THE ASGARDIAN'S PUNISHMENT PERSONALLY.
THEN THERE WILL BE LITTLE DOUBT AS TO OUR ENEMY'S FATE.

BUT IF YOUR FATHER DISCOVERS I HAVE LIED, ALL WILL COME TUMBLING DOWN. IT WILL BE WE WHO SUFFER, ARES.
ZEUS WILL RAGE AT THE DECEPTION, AND THERE WILL BE HADES TO PAY.
WHAT IS T YOU TOLD HIM, PLUTO ?
THE TRUTH... MOSTLY. THAT THOR IS MAD THAT HE BEAT YOU SAVAGELY, AND YOU ESCAPED DEATH ONLY BECAUSE OF MY INTERVENTION.
I ALSO TOLD ZEUS THAT THOR ATTACKED US WITHOUT WARNING OR CAUSE.
BUT IT WAS WE WHO ATTACKED HIM! BECAUSE YOU SAID THE MADNESS MADE HIM VULNERABLE.
YOU SAID WE WOULD FINALLY HAVE OUR VENGEANCE UPON THOR.
AND WE SHALL, SO LONG AS ZEUS DOES NOT KNOW WE PROVOKED THE BATTLE THAT RESULTED IN YOUR WOUNDS.
YOU MEND?
AYE. SLOWLY... BUT WELL ENOUGH.
THEN 'TIS A SMALL PRICE WE HAVE PAID TO BE AVENGED UPON THOR.
I ENDURE THIS BEDRIDDEN TORMENT BECAUSE I KNOW THOR WILL SUFFER ALL I HAVE, AND MORE.
AYE. BE SURE OF IT.
ONCE I GOAD ZEUS INTO HUNTING DOWN THE ASGARDIAN.

"...THERE WILL BE NO PLACE THOR CAN HIDE!"
WHAT I SEEK MUST BE HIDDEN. I SEARCH AT THE GODDESS'S BEHEST...
...BUT THESE CATACOMBS HOLD NOTHING SAVE DARKNESS.
UNTRUE, SWEET PRINCE.
I AM HERE!
VALKYRIE!
HOW IS IT YOU LIVE?! I SAW THE GODDESS STRIKE YOU DOWN!
MY LOVE, MUST I TELL YOU YET AGAIN? WE ARE AS THE SAME SOUL.
NOTHING COULD TRULY SEPARATE ME FROM YOU
COME, BROTHER. I HAVE NOT ALL DAY TO WAIT FOR YOU.


LOKI!
'TIS IMPOSSIBLE! YOU ARE IMPRISONED IN MEPH'STO'S FIERY REALM! *
AM I? HMMM, I SUSPECT NOT.
NAY, I AM MOST DEFINITELY HERE.
SURELY YOU ARE GLAD TO SEE ME. WHY DO YOU NOT REJOICE AT THIS FAMILY REUNION?
BEHIND ME, VALKYRIE, DESPITE HIS GRACIOUS MIEN, MY ADOPTED BROTHER IS A MOST EVIL...
CREATURE?
WHERE
* THOR #455--MIKE

BROTHER? WHAT EVER ARE YOU CARRYING ON ABOUT?
CEASE THIS PRATTLE, AND LET ME EMBRACE MY FAVORITE SIBLING.
NAY!
TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WITH HER, DECEIVER!
TELL ME!
THWOOOM!

SPEAK, LOKI, OR I WILL SURELY PUT AN END TO YOU!
NAY!
DO AWAY WITH ME? BUT HOW, DEAR BROTHER?
YOU HAVE SAID YOURSELF I AM EVIL. AND BY ITS VERY NATURE, EVIL CAN NEVER BE WHOLLY DESTROYED.
EVIL IS ETERNAL...
.. EVER HUNGRY..
... AND ALL CONSUMING.

HEROIC DEEDS ARE USELESS. THE BEST YOU ACCOMPLISH IS HOLDING EVIL AT BAY, LURKING JUST BEYOND THE LIGHT
YOU WILL NEVER ERADICATE IT. FOR EVIL EVER FINDS A WAY TO FLOURISH..
.. AND SOON REGAINS ITS ALL-EMBRACING GRIP ON THE WORLD!
WHAT MONSTER HAVE YOU BECOME.
..HNNNGH NFF.
THOR..

GODDESS?
WHAT OF LOKI? HE WAS... HERE... AND--
NO, HE WAS NEVER HERE.
LOKI WAS BUT AN ILLUSION, A FIGMENT I PLANTED IN YOUR MIND.
BUT WHY? YOU WERE PUNISHING ME?
SIMPLY INSTRUCTING YOU, SHOWING YOU THE FUTILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTION
WE HOLD THE MEANS TO EXTINGUISH ALL EVIL, WIPE IT FROM THE UNIVERSE AND BRING ABOUT EVERLASTING PEACE.
BUT ONLY IF OUR EFFORTS ARE CONCERTED, ONLY IF ALL MY SERVANTS PUT ASIDE THEIR DISPUTES AND ACT AS ONE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, THOR? DO YOU SEE THE NECESSITY OF COMPLETE OBEDIENCE TO ME?

AYE. YOU HAVE MADE IT PLAIN, AND MY DEVOTION IS INFINITE.
BUT TELL ME OF VALKYRIE'S APPEARANCE. WHAT LESSON WOULD YOU TEACH ME WITH THAT APPARITION?
VALKYRIE? I CREATED NO ILLUSION OF YOUR FORMER PARAMOUR.
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, THOR. YOUR WEARINESS CREATES DELUSIONS.
BUT, I SAW..
OF COURSE. I AM MISTAKEN.
MY THANKS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, GODDESS.
I HUMBLE MYSELF BEFORE YOUR GLORY, AND VOW MY UNDYING FEALTY!
KNOW THAT NOW AND FOREVER...
...MIGHTY THOR IS YOUR DUTIFUL SLAVE.
NEXT ISSUE...
SKRULLS ATTACK!

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LIFE IS A TRAGEDY FOR THOSE WHO FEEL AND A COMEDY FOR THOSE WHO THINK.
JEAN DE LABRUYERE
HIS NAME IS ADAM WARLOCK AND HE IS FAR FROM HOME, IN A DIMENSIONAL REALITY UNKNOWN TO HIM.
BUT THIS PREDICAMENT HOLDS NO WONDER OR FEAR FOR THIS BOLDEN WARRIOR, FOR HE IS ALSO TRAPPED IN OBLIVION, COMATOSE.
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
THINGS PAST
JIM STARLIN
TOM RANEY
KEITH WILLIAMS
GOING & MORELLI
CRAIG ANDERSON
TOM DeFALCO

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BUT HE IS NOT ALONE.
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
OBVIOUSLY A FELLOW TRAVELER IN DIRE STRAITS, MEER'LYN.
DARKLORE, ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD?
IT IS NEVER WISE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.
ONE NEVER KNOWS WHEN THIS SITUATION MIGHT BE REVERSED.
BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR THIS GENTLEMAN.

HE APPEARS TO BE IN A COMA MOST DEEP!
THE JEWEL?
BUT LOOK ON HIS FOREHEAD.
NOT JUST A JEWEL.
IT'S A SENTIENT BEING.
CAN YOU COMMUNICATE WITH IT?
PERHAPS. LET US FIND OUT
MASTER DARKLORE I SENSE CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCIZED WITH THIS CREATURE!
WHO BE YOU?
I HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN A PROPER NAME OR CARE TO HAVE ONE
FAIR ENOUGH
I WILL BE
SPEAK TO ME MAGICAL GEM.
BUT I WOULD KNOW HOW YOU AND YOUR COMPANION CAME TO SUCH A SORRY STATE
TO UNDERSTAND THAT, ONE MUST FIRST COMPREHEND THE NATURE OF OUR UNION!

THEN PLEASE ELUCIDATE.
I AM ONE SIN WHICH WERE ONCE ONE.
WE WERE OMNIPOTENCE AND ALL THERE WAS UNTIL THE GREAT DIVISION MADE US FINITE.
THIS INDIVIDUALITY FORCED US TO ADOPT HOST BODIES THROUGH WHICH TO ACT
OVER THE EONS I HAVE HAD COUNTLESS SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH MYRIAD LIFE FORMS
MANY OF THESE CREATURES HAVE BECOME THE STUFF OF GALACTIC LEGEND
BUT EVENTUALLY I CAME INTO THE POSSESSION OF A CURIOUS ENTITY CALLED THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY
HE DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND MY POWER AND SO DISTRUSTED IT.
"FOR MANY YEARS I WAS KEPT SEPARATED FROM ANY HOST BODY.
I TOLD HIM I KNOW THAT MERE LIGHT YEARS AWAY ON A PLANET CALLED EARTH THE GREATEST OF MY HOSTS WAS ONCE THERE CREATING LIFE!
UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS ALSO AN OVERLY CAUTIOUS BEING.

"HE WAS TO BE THAT WORLD'S FIRST ARTIFICIALLY CREATED MAN, A PRODUCT OF A SCIENTIFIC ENCLAVE CALLED THE HIVE.
"BUT THE GRASP OF THE PETTY SCIENTISTS THAT BIRTHED THIS HERO FAR OUTDISTANCED THEIR CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.
"TO THEIR ASTONISHMENT THEY CREATED SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN THEMSELVES.
"SOMETHING THEY WOULD LEARN TO FEAR.
"HIS POWER WAS GREAT AND HE IMMEDIATELY PERCEIVED THE FASCIST TENDENCIES OF HIS FATHERS.
HIM
WOULD NOT BEND TO THEIR WILL.

"HIS FIRST CONSCIOUS ACT WAS REBELLION.
"THE SCIENTISTS TRIED TO DESTROY HIM BUT ONLY CAME TO REALIZE THEY HAD UNWITTINGLY UNLEASHED SOMETHING NEW AND COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE ON THE UNIVERSE.
FORTUNATELY FOR EARTH, HE ABANDONED HIS HOMEWORLD IN FAVOR OF ADVENTURES AMONG THE STARS
"THAT IS WHEN HE WAS CHRISTENED ADAM WARLOCK AND GIVEN PURPOSE IN HIS LIFE.
"THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY DRAFTED WARLOCK INTO HIS SERVICE.
"YEARS LATER HE RETURNED TO THAT STAR SYSTEM HUMBLER AND LESS POWERFUL AND ENCOUNTERED THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

"ADAM WAS CHARGED WITH PROTECTING A WORLD OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S CREATION CALLED COUNTER-EARTH A NEAR DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL EARTH.
"AND I WAS GIVEN TO WARLOCK TO AID HIM IN HIS TASK.
"THE PARADISE THAT COUNTER-EARTH WAS MEANT TO BE WAS THREATENED BY THE EVIL OF THE MAN-BEAST.
"IT TOOK ADAM AND I YEARS TO OVERCOME THIS VILE CREATURE.
"IN THE END WE REVERTED THE DEVIL BACK TO THE BASE ORIGINS FROM WHICH IT SPRANG.
"WITH THIS CHARGE FULFILLED, WARLOCK AND I RETURNED TO THE STARS WHICH BECKONED US.
"THERE WE ENCOUNTERED THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF THE TRUTH.

"AND ITS DESPOTIC FOUNDER, THE MAGUS, ADAM'S TWISTED AND EVIL FUTURE SELF.
"THIS CHALLENGE PROVED TO BE MORE THAN EVEN WE COULD HANDLE ALONE.
"WARLOCK AND I WERE PRESSED INTO JOINING FORCES WITH AN ENTITY CALLED THANOS OF TITAN.
"AND THOUGH WE NEVER TRUSTED THANOS, HE DID AID US IN CIRCUMVENTING THE MAGUS'S EVIL SCHEMES--
--AND SAVING ADAM'S SOUL.
"BUT THANOS WAS A NIHILIST AND WOULD EVENTUALLY PROVE TO BE AN EVEN GREATER THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE THAN THE MAGUS.
"HIS LOVE FOR MISTRESS DEATH WOULD ULTIMATELY DRIVE HIM TO DISASTROUS LENGTHS.
"HIS FIRST ATTEMPT AT WIPING ALL LIFE FROM THE HEAVENS INVOLVED COLLECTING MY FELLOW INFINITY GEMS--
--TO USE AS A GALACTIC WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION.

"IT TOOK THE COMBINED STRENGTH OF MANY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES TO THWART THANOS'S DESTRUCTIVE INTENTIONS.
"WARLOCK AND I HAD TO ALLY OUR SELVES WITH THE LEGENDARY AVENGERS, SPIDER-MAN, THE THING AND THE HERO, CAPT. MARVEL TO SAVE THE HEAVENS!
"BUT THIS VICTORY CAME AT A HIGH PRICE.
"WARLOCK DIED IN THE BATTLE.
"FORTUNATELY, I WAS ABLE TO TAKE HIS SPIRIT IN TO MY BEING AND HE SPENT SEVERAL HAPPY YEARS WITHIN THE SOUL WORLD THAT IS MY HEART.

"BUT DESPITE EVERYONE'S BEST EFFORTS, THANOS MANAGED TO REBUILD HIS POWER BASE AND ONCE AGAIN SOUGHT ULTIMATE MIGHT TO ACHIEVE HIS INSANE ENDS.
"THIS TIME HE DISCOVERED THE TRUE SECRET OF THE INFINITY GEMS--
"AND GATHERED THEM AND MYSELF TO FULLY EXPLOIT OUR LIMITLESS MIGHT.
THE COMBINED GEMS GAVE HIM MASTERY OVER ALL TIME, SPACE, REALITY, POWER, THE MIND AND THE SOUL.
"HE IN EFFECT BECAME GOD!
"BUT ADAM WARLOCK EVENTUALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS DARK PLAN AND RESOLVED TO TOPPLE THANOS'S REIGN OF TERROR.
"WITH MY AID NEW BODIES WERE FASHIONED FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FRIENDS, GAMORA AND PIP THE TROLL

"NOW FACED WITH THE THREAT OF REAL, PERMANENT DEATH, ADAM, NONETHELESS, ONCE AGAIN TEAMED WITH EARTH'S CHAMPIONS TO DEFEAT THE TITAN.
AND EVENTUALLY GAINED THE INFINITY GAUNTLET FOR HIMSELF.
SO THE MANTLE OF SUPREMACY CAME TO REST ON ADAM WARLOCK'S SHOULDERS.
"HIS REWARD FOR THIS HEROISM WAS BEING BROUGHT UP BEFORE A TRIBUNAL OF ASTRAL DEITIES WHO FOUND HIM MENTALLY UNFIT TO BE GOD.
SUCH INJUSTICE
"SO ADAM DISTRIBUTED THE GEMS AMONG FOUR TRUSTED FRIENDS--MOONDRAGON, PIP, DRAX THE DESTROYER AND GAMORA--HE KEPT ONE FOR HIMSELF.
"THE REALITY GEM WAS GIVEN INTO THE CARE OF ONE WHOSE IDENTITY I AM NOT ALLOWED TO REVEAL.

BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO WARLOCK, DURING HIS TIME OF OMNIPOTENCE HE SUBCONSCIOUSLY DIVESTED HIMSELF OF ALL THE GOOD AND EVIL IN HIS SOUL.
THESE ASPECTS THEN TOOK ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN, ONE BECOMING A REBIRTHED MAGUS AND THE OTHER THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT IS GOOD AND FEMININE IN ADAM.
"IN A BIZARRE TWIST OF FATE, EVIL THANOS ONCE AGAIN HELPED DEFEAT THIS NEWEST INCARNATION OF THE INNER EVIL.
"BUT APPARENTLY THE THREAT TO UNIVERSAL SAFETY DID NOT PASS WITH THE MAGUS'S DOWNFALL.
"SHORT HOURS AGO, WHILE ENGROSSED IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE BEYOND, ADAM'S GOOD HALF APPEARED BEFORE US.
"I IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED HER FOR WHAT SHE WAS.

"HER ASSAULT WAS SAVAGE AND UNSTOPPABLE!
"BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, WE WERE DEFEATED AND TRANSPORTED TO A STRANGE DIMENSION.
YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE THE HORROR I EXPERIENCED ONCE I REALIZED THE TRUE EXTENT OF THE INJURIES ADAM SUFFERED IN THIS ATTACK.
I FEAR HIS COMA MAY BE PERMANENT. HE'S ALWAYS HAD A WEAK GRASP ON REALITY
YOUR UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE, MASTER DARKLORE, IS A BLESSED RELIEF.
SAVE YOUR THANKS, GEM, UNTIL IT CAN BE DETERMINED WHETHER I CAN BE OF ANY REAL SERVICE TO YOU
YOUR COMPANION'S COMA IS SO DEEP THAT I'M NOT AT ALL SURE THAT I CAN WAKEN HIM.
IT DOES NOT MATTER.
AS I SAID EARLIER, I HAVE HAD MYRIAD HOST BODIES OVER THE AGES.
IN YOU I SENSE

...A BETTER HOST FORM THAN WARLOCK EVER WAS!
I COULD NEVER ENSLAVE ADAM'S SOUL TO MY WILL.
HE WAS ONE OF THE FEW COMPANIONS WHO RETAINED THEIR FREE SPIRIT WHILE BOUND TO ME.
NEVER!
I SHALL NEVER BE YOUR SLAVE!
YOU WILL SURELY PROVE EASIER TO HANDLE!

FOOL! YOU ALREADY ARE!
A LIE! LIKE EVERYTHING YOU OBVIOUSLY TOLD ME.
ARRGH!
NO, THERE WERE MANY TRUTHS AMIDST THAT TWISTED VERSION OF WARLOCK'S LIFE.
SO ARISE AND ACCEPT THE DESTINY CRUEL FATE HAS CHOSEN FOR YOU.
STAND READY TO BECOME ONE WITH MY WILL!
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
DARKLORE'S MINE!
BOTHERSOME INSECT.
NO ONE SHALL BE ALLOWED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF MY DESIRES AND NEEDS. I AM ONE OF THE SIX THAT WERE THE ONE.

PREPARE TO EMBRACE MY SPIRIT DARKLORE.
TWINE YOUR SOUL WITH MINE.
I SHALL REVEAL TO YOU SECRETS I NEVER SHARED WITH EVEN WARLOCK!
FOR YOU AND I SHALL BE INDISTINGUISHABLE IN OUR UNITY.
MELD WITH ME, MORTAL.
TASTE NOW THE INFINITE!
NO!
DENIAL IS FUTILE!
NO!
HUH?

FOOLISH AND FICKLE JEWEL, YOU WOULD LEAVE ME WITHOUT EVEN A FAREWELL?

I THINK NOT.

YOU'RE AWAKE!

FOR ADAM WARLOCK AND THE SOUL GEM, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, ARE WEDDED TO EACH OTHER.

BUT I DID SENSE THE DEPTHS OF YOUR COMA AND--

I WAS STIRRED FROM OBLIVION BY THE THREAT OF LOSING MY DEAR FRIEND AND COMPANION.

ONCE AGAIN I AM WHOLE.

BUT OBVIOUSLY I AM IN AN ACTUALITY I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH

THIS DIMENSION IS FAR DOWN THE CORRIDOR FROM YOUR OWN PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

YOUR FEMININE SIDE OBVIOUSLY WANTED YOU OUT OF THE REACH OF RESCUERS.

YOU HAVE BEEN TO MY DIMENSION?
YEARS AGO.
TRANSFERRING THESE PLANES IS BEYOND MY ABILITY. COULD YOU RETURN ME HOME?
YES, BUT THE TRIP WOULD TAKE MONTHS.
MONTHS I CANNOT AFFORD TO SPEND AWAY FROM THE QUEST I AM CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN
I SEEK A TALISMAN THAT WILL AID ME FREEING A NEIGHBORING DIMENSION FROM A CERTAIN DICTATOR'S IRON GRIP
A NOBLE AMBITION
TRUE BUT MY MOTIVES ARE NOT ENTIRELY PURE.
I HAVE BEEN LIVING THE LIFE OF A WANDERING MYSTIC FOR MANY LONG CENTURIES.
I TIRE OF THE EXISTENCE.
ONCE I FREE IT OF THIS TYRANT, I PLAN TO RETIRE TO A LEISURELY LIFE IN SAID DIMENSION.
YOU CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR THAT DESIRE
YEAH IT'S TIME WE GOT A BREAK.
WHO?
MEER'LYN, MY FAMILIAR
I APPRECIATE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT MY ENTIRE AGUAITY MAY BE IN PERIL FROM MY FEMININE SELF, AND--
ASK ME NOT TO ABANDON MY QUEST FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN WARLOCK
PEOPLE DIE DAILY UNDER THIS DESPOT'S RULE.

I UNDERSTAND.
BUT THERE MAY YET BE A WAY THAT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU.
HOW?
I DID RECENTLY ENCOUNTER A BIZARRE MANIFESTATION.
MY MYSTIC SENSES TELL ME THAT YOU AND IT ARE CONNECTED IN SOME MANNER.
IN WHAT WAY?
PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL ME.
I APPEARED TO BE A RIP IN THE DIMENSIONAL FIBER.
ONLY A STEP AWAY THROUGH A MAGICAL PORTAL.
MYSTIC, HAVE YOU EVER ENCOUNTERED A DOCTOR STRANGE IN YOUR TRAVELS?
LET US TRANSPORT TO THE LOCALE OF THIS STRANGE PHENOMENON.
FAR FROM HERE.
NO. A FRIEND OF YOURS?
AN ACQUAINTANCE. YOU AND HE WOULD HAVE--
BY THE HEAVENS!

SUCH DAMAGE COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE MISUSE OF THE REALITY GEM!
THE INFINITY GEM HELD BY YOUR MYSTERY ASSOCIATE?
EXACTLY.
BUT HE KNEW THAT JEWEL COULD NOT BE USED WITHOUT THE OTHER GEMS PRESENT TO CONTROL IT.
WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN THAT A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT HAS OCCURRED.
REALITY IS NOW OBVIOUSLY TEARING ASUNDER!
THAT CAN ONLY BE A RUPTURE IN THE VERY NATURE OF REALITY ITSELF!

IF LEFT UNCHECKED ALL ACTUALITY COULD PLUMMET INTO UTTER CHAOS.
THE REALITY GEM'S GUARDIAN IS PROBABLY TRAPPED WITHIN THE RIFT, HELPLESS.
IT IS UP TO ME TO RESCUE HIM.
AND IN DOING SO, YOU MAY END ASHORT JUT BACK TO YOUR OWN DIMENSION.
TRUE
IF I SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE.
FARE THEE WELL, ADAM WARLOCK. I THANK YOU FOR THE RESCUE.
AS I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND FRIENDSHIP, MYSTIC.
GOOD LUCK, AND--
"GOODBYE.
NO, WARLOCK. NOT GOODBYE ONLY FARE WELL.
YOU AND I SHALL MEET AGAIN
THIS MY MYSTIC SENSES ASSURE ME

"BUT WHETHER IT BE IN THIS MORTAL PLANE OR SOME AFTERLIFE, WHO CAN SAY?
"WE BOTH OBVIOUSLY RUSH TO DESTINATIONS THAT CONCEAL MANY A WAY TO DIE!"
TO BE CONTINUED IN TWO WEEKS IN WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #18
AND 1 WEEK LATER IN INFINITY CRUSADE #2.
AND THEN JOIN US BACK HERE FOR WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2 .. AND THE
RESCUE!

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THE INFINITY CRUSADE

A GATHERING OF THE FAITHFUL!

CRUSH THE INFIDELS!

DIRECT EDITION

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FOR WHERE GOD BUILT A CHURCH THERE THE DEVIL WOULD BUILD A CHAPEL... THE DEVIL IS EVER GOD'S APE. —MARTIN LUTHER.

BEHOLD THE GRANDEUR OF PARADISE OMEGA, MY FOLLOWERS!

GREET THE SECOND COMING, THE DAWN OF THE GODDESS!

FROM THIS TEMPLE WE WILL CLEANSE THE SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE, MY CHOSEN ONES!

THE SINS OF THE PAST WILL BE PURGED, AND ONCE AGAIN THE SUPREME ONE WILL SMILE ON THIS REALITY.

MY CHILDREN, PREPARE YOURSELF FOR...

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Enlightenment!

NO ORDINARY CATHEDRAL IS THIS WE STAND IN, MY FLOCK.

WITHIN THESE WALLS REST ALL THAT WE REQUIRE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR HOLY MISSION.

I PRESENT THEE WITH THE MOST ADVANCED IN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD.

THERE ARE ALSO TELEPORTATION BANKS SO THAT THE SUPREME ONE'S WILL CAN BE CARRIED OUT ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY.

ANY NEED SHALL BE SATISFIED.

WE STAND READY, MY GODDESS, TO TAKE UP THIS HALLOWED TRUST.

TELL US HOW WE MAY SERVE YOU!

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AND ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN FROM THIS SPIRITUAL GATHERING, ON THE PLANET EARTH: AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.

I JUST GOT OFF THE COM-LINK WITH MENTOR OF TITAN...

...THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF THANOS ANYWHERE IN THIS SPACE QUADRANT.

WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THANOS IS NOT IN-VOLVED IN THE DIS-APPEARANCES OF OUR FELLOW PARA-NORMALS.

I WONDER HOW THE EGGHEADS ARE DOING WITH-OUT REED BACKING THEM UP?

I'M SURE PROF. RICHARDS' ABSENCE IS DEEPLY FELT.

GREAT VOICE, DARKHAWK.

I STILL BET WARLOCK AND HIS BUNCH ARE INVOLVED IN THIS MESS, SOMEHOW.

WHY YOU FIGURE THAT?

INTUITION.

I NEVER DID TRUST ANY OF THOSE ALIEN TYPES.

IT NEVER HAPPENED, GRIMM. ALL MEDIA HYPE.

WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT DRAX CLEANED YER CLOCK A FEW WEEKS BACK?

LOOK! IT MY FRIEND, THE HULK!

THAT VOICE!

IT--IT CAN'T BE--!

IT'S DRAX! AND THAT TROLL, PIP!

AND THEY'VE GOT A BROTHER WITH THEM!

NOT TA MENTION MY MISSING BUDDY, REED!

GREETINGS, MY FELLOW DOERS AND SHAKERS.

DOESN'T TAKE NO GENIUS TA FIGURE WE'RE FINALLY MEETIN' THE BADDY BEHIND ALL OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS!

YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

YA GOT SOME NERVE KID-NAPPIN' A MEMBER OF THE F.F., BUB!

I OUGHTA ...HOLY COW!

YOU OUGHT TO WHAT?

GO TO SLEEP.

BAD MOVE, DRAX.

I DON'T THINK LUMPY'S FRIENDS ARE GOING TO TAKE KINDLY TO IT.

"SEE WHAT I MEAN?"

HEY, NO ONE TREATS THE THING LIKE THAT EXCEPT ME!

'BOUT TIME SOMETHING STARTED HAPPENING AROUND HERE!

BACK OFF, TUBBY!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF THIS ROUND, DRAX!

HIYA, HULK!

NOW YOU DONE IT, YOU BIG OAF!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

WILL YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

THIS TIME I'M NOT HOLDING BACK WITH YOU!

CAN'T WE TALK THIS OUT, LADY?

DRAX GLAD TO SEE YOU TOO, HULK!

EVERYBODY-- KNOCK IT OFF!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE INFINITY WATCH IS ON OUR SIDE IN THIS CRISIS!

THEY'RE THE GOOD GUYS!

TOO BAD! I WAS JUST WARMING UP!

HEY! NO FAIR!

WHO'S THE WALKING INFLATABLE MUSCLE?

HIS NAME IS MAXAM, APPARENTLY AN UNOFFICIAL NEW MEMBER OF THE WATCH, AND HE SUFFERS FROM AMNESIA.

AND HE'S MY PAL.

FIGURES.

LET DRAX INTRODUCE YOU TO HIS OTHER PALS...

THIS IS MY BUDDY, THE BULK.

THAT'S THE HULK.

WHAT-EVER.

THIS IS IRON PAN.

IRON MAN.

CHAOS.

HAVOK.

THE BADGER.

WOLVERINE.

AND THIS IS--

YOU!

YOU'RE THE VISION!

HUH?

YOU GOT AMNESIA, HOW COME YOU KNOW THIS DUDE'S NAME?

I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST CAME TO ME.

MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS, YOU ASK ME.

SPEAKING OF SUSPICIONS THE AVENGERS HAD A QUINJET STOLEN--AND WRECKED--A FEW MONTHS BACK*

SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THAT.

*WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #3.--CRAIG.

WHEN YOU NEWCOMERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AVENGERS' SECURITY AUTOMATICALLY SCANNED YOUR PERSONS--A STANDARD PRECAUTION.

THIS PROCEDURE TURNED UP SOMETHING VERY INTER-ESTING.

IT APPEARS PIP'S FINGER-PRINTS MATCH THOSE FOUND ON WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE STOLEN QUINJET.

WE HAD THE FANTASTI-CAR STOLEN AS WELL!

GREAT! JUST GREAT!

I...I.. I.. I.. I..

I GOT THIS EVIL TWIN BROTHER, YOU SEE!

ME AN' HIM GOT THE SAME FINGER-PRINTS!

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR IMMEDIATE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER, I SUGGEST THIS MATTER BE TABLED FOR THE MOMENT.

GOOD IDEA.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

IN THE MEANTIME ANOTHER NOTE-WORTHY DISCOVERY HAS BEEN UN-EARTHED WHILE SEARCHING THROUGH THE COMPUTER BANKS.

IT APPEARS THAT OVER THE PAST FEW HOURS, NO POLICE FORCE ON EARTH HAS REPORTED ARRESTING ANY-ONE IN THE PRO-CESS OF AN ACTIVE CRIME.

AND I THINK I KNOW WHY.

MY SCANNER IS PICKING UP WIDESPREAD COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT ACTIVITY ON A TELEPATHIC LEVEL.

I SUSPECT THE ENTIRE PLANET MAY BE BLANKETED WITH THESE TRANS-MISSIONS.

YOU TALKING ABOUT LIKE COSMIC CUBES?

YES, I HAVE STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE OUR FELLOW PARANORMALS WERE MESMERIZED INTO AIDING IN THEIR OWN KIDNAPPINGS.

THESE SAME TRANS-MISSIONS APPEAR TO BE AFFECTING ALL THE CRIMINAL MINDS ON EARTH.

SOMEONE'S TURNING ALL THE BAD GUYS INTO HONEST CITIZENS?

WHY?

OBVIOUSLY TO FURTHER THE HIDDEN AGENDA OF THE LADY WHOM I BELIEVE HAS ENGINEERED THIS SITUATION.

LADY?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MORE IN THE KNOW THAN THE REST OF US, DOC.

CARE TO FILL US IN ABOUT THIS LADY?

MY KNOWLEDGE OF HER IS SKETCHY AT BEST, BUT I SUSPECT...

"...SHE'S NOT QUITE HUMAN."

I HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY TO THIS REGION OF SPACE

HOW?

MY MERE PRESENCE IS RESPON-SIBLE.

BUT I ALONE CANNOT BRING ABOUT SUCH BOUNTY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

ONLY WITH YOUR AID, MY TRUE BELIEVERS, CAN SUCH A MIRACLE COME TO FRUITION.

UNIVERSAL WILL CAN BRING ABOUT GALACTIC SALVATION.

HOW CAN WE TAP INTO THIS WILL?

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE.

WITH THE AID OF HEAVENLY GIFTS!

BEHOLD THE COSMIC EGG!

I DID GATHER 30 COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS FROM A DOZEN DIFFERENT REALITIES!

MY SPIRIT FORGED THEM INTO THIS SINGLE FORCE YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!

THEY ARE NOW FAR MORE THAN THE SUM OF THIER PARTS!

THIS BE THE REFLECTOR THROUGH WHICH COSMIC GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS SHALL BECOME UNIVERSAL CHANGE!

THERE ARE CERTAIN DREAMS NO ONE ENTITY SHOULD FORCE UPON REALITY.

BUT BILLIONS OF BELIEVERS CAN ALTER THE HEAVENS.

WITH YOUR HELP, MY CHILDREN, THIS UNION SHALL BE FORGED.

BELIEVE IN ME AND WE WILL DELIVER THIS UNIVERSE FROM ALL THE PAIN AND SORROW WHICH IS NOW ITS LOT.

DO YOU TRUST IN ME, SILVER SURFER?

YES.

BUT I STILL MUST ASK HOW THIS WONDERMENT WILL BE REALIZED.

THE COLLECTED INFINITY GEMS ARE A FAR MORE POTENT FORCE.

EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS ARE NEARLY ALL-POWERFUL... BUT NOT QUITE!

TRUE, BUT THE SUPREME ONE'S SERVANT, THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, HAS RULED THAT THE INFINITY GEMS MAY NEVER AGAIN BE USED IN UNISON.

LINKED WITH A GROUP SOUL THE COSMIC EGG BECOMES THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL IN THIS REALITY.

BUT IS THERE NOT A CHANCE THAT ETERNITY, THE LIVING TRIBUNAL OR SOME OTHER COSMIC ENTITY MIGHT INTERFERE WITH OUR GREAT WORK?

WE SERVE THE SUPREME WILL.

WE DO NOTHING THAT EITHER ETERNITY OR INFINITY WOULD OBJECT TO.

THEY ARE ALREADY AWARE OF OUR MOVE-MENT.

NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR SAINTED DESTINY!

"MINE IS THE WAY OF THE LIGHT, THE KEY TO RAPTURE!"

FROM WITHIN THE COSMIC EGG I WILL CONTACT AND AWAKEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EVERY ENLIGHTENED BEING IN THE HEAVENS.

I SHALL GUIDE THIS COLLECTED CONSCIOUSNESS TO TRUE BLISS AND HOLY SALVATION!

BUT THIS SACRED CONVERSION SHALL REQUIRE MY COMPLETE STRENGTH AND ATTENTION.

WHILE SPREADING THIS GOSPEL I WILL BE VULNERABLE TO THE WRATH OF NON-BELIEVERS.

"IT SHALL BE YOUR TASK, MY HOLY GUARD, TO WATCH OVER MY TEMPORAL FORM WHILE MY SPIRIT SOARS.

"WILL YOU PROTECT ME WHILE I PREPARE THE FUTURE?"

"WE WILL GLADLY LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR YOU, OUR GODDESS!"

THEN HEED THE WORDS AND THOUGHTS OF SISTER MOONDRAGON.

I WILL BE WITH YOU AND GUIDE YOU THROUGH HER.

LET OUR HOLY CRUSADE BEGIN!

ENTRY REQUEST.

SUBJECT IDENTIFIED:

NOMAD

ENTRY GRANTED.

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY *NOTHING* HAPPENING OUT ON THEM STREETS. EVERYONE'S GONE *STRAIGHT*.

IT'S JUST PLAIN *WEIRD*--!

THAT'S JUST THE *TIP* OF THE *ICEBERG*. VISION, FILL OUR GUEST IN ON THE *REST*.

IT APPEARS THAT EVERY ARMED CONFLICT ON EARTH HAS COME TO AN UNEXPECTED HALT.

NO ONE'S DECLARED A CEASE-FIRE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

PEOPLE HAVE SUDDENLY JUST STOPPED SHOOTING EACH OTHER.

GUESS YOU SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT, STILL...

WE'LL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT OUR FOE'S ACTUAL INTENTIONS ARE IF I CAN ONLY TRACE HER TELEPATHIC TRANSMISSIONS BACK TO THE SOURCE.

ARE WE ABSOLUTELY SURE THIS WOMAN SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN ENEMY?

NORTHSTAR! YOUR SISTER!!

AURORA? OH LORD!

WHAT TRANSPIRES?

AURORA IS EXPERIENCING AN IDENTITY SHIFT!

MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES? HOW MANY?

JUST TWO.

IS AURORA'S OTHER SELF RELIGIOUS?

VERY.

THE GODDESS... NEEDS ME...

BRUCE--! GRAB HER!

YOU LUMBERING BRUTE, TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MY SISTER!

I WARNED YOU I SHALL AARRGH!

SOMEONE OUGHT TO COOL NORTHSTAR DOWN BEFORE HE HURTS HIMSELF!

SETTLE DOWN, NORTHSTAR. NO ONE'S GOING TO HARM YOUR SISTER. IN FACT, WE'RE GOING TO HELP HER.

SHE WANTS TO GO TO HER GODDESS...

...AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HER THE MEANS TO DO JUST THAT.

BUT ONLY WHEN WE'RE READY TO DO SO. YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES. I BELIEVE SO

SHE-HULK, READY ONE OF THE AVENGERS' QUINJETS FOR TAKE OFF.

ON MY WAY.

HOW'S THE HEAD, BEN?

STILL RINGING. YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK KINDA DOWN.

CONFUSED. I ALWAYS KNEW SUE HAD THIS RELIGIOUS STREAK SHE PRETTY WELL KEPT TO HERSELF.

SAME WAY MYSELF. IT WAS THE WAY WE WERE RAISED.

THING IS, THOUGH, I'VE ALWAYS FELT MY BELIEFS WERE AS DEEP AS SUE'S.

GUESS I WAS MISTAKEN OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE. WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?

DO I REALLY BELIEVE IN GOD? I THOUGHT I DID, BUT NOW...

WHERE HAS THIS DOUBT COME FROM..?

DOUBT SOMETIMES CREEPS IN FROM THE MOST UNEXPECTED PLACES.

SOMETIMES EVEN FROM BELIEVIN' TOO MUCH.

WHEN I WAS A KID I HAD THIS AUNT I REALLY LIKED A LOT. HECK, I LOVED HER.

BUT SHE GOT THE BIG C, AND THE SAWBONES DIDN'T GIVE HER MUCH TIME.

"I GOT DOWN ON MY KNEES AND PRAYED TO GOD TO SAVE HER LIFE.

"FIGURED GOD COULDN'T NOT ANSWER SUCH AN UNSELFISH PRAYER.

"COURSE I WAS WRONG. AUNT SOPHIE DIED A FEW DAYS LATER.

"YOU CAN FIGURE HOW I REACTED.

"I REMEMBER THE KID RAGIN' AT GOD FOR LETTIN' HIS AUNT DIE.

"I WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD AND DIDN'T KNOW NO BETTER."

BUT THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I WASN'T AMONG THE CHOSEN.

LUCKY ME, HUH?

WONDER IF I'LL ALWAYS BE THAT LUCKY.

AND ON A NAMELESS PLANET ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN...

GODDESS, I SENSE A FELLOW SISTER STRIVING TO REACH SANCTUARY.

I AM WELL AWARE OF THIS ENLIGHTENED SOUL'S STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES, MOONDRAGON.

HER PREDICAMENT IS BUT PART OF THE CELESTIAL PLAN TO BRING SALVATION TO THIS TROUBLED SPHERE OF EXISTENCE.

WE, THE CHOSEN FEW, ARE ABOUT TO PUT THE UNBELIEVING MASSES ON NOTICE.

I STILL DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF JUST THE THREE OF THEM GOING WITH HER.

THEY'RE THREE OF THE BEST.

IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO AURORA...

SHE'S HEADING FOR THE CONTROLS, JUST AS I FIGURED.

BUT AURORA'S NEVER BEEN CHECKED OUT ON THE QUINJET.

DOESN'T MATTER.

"IT'S NOT REALLY GOING TO BE HER FLYING THIS CRAFT.

"THE LADY'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN HERSELF.

"WE'RE HEADING INTO SPACE. MAKES SENSE. NEVER THOUGHT THIS WAS AN EARTH-BOUND GODDESS WE WERE DEALING WITH..."

MOONDRAGON, HAVE THE FAITHFUL TAKE UP THEIR ASSIGNED STATIONS.

WE HAVE COMPANY ON THE WAY.

"OUR TRAJECTORY SHOULD TAKE US AROUND THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN, REED."

"SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY WOULD EXPLAIN WHY I WASN'T ABLE TO PIN DOWN THE POINT OF ORIGIN OF THIS GODDESS'S TELEPATHIC TRANSMISSIONS, VISION."

AURORA SEEMS COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO OUR PRESENCE.

YOU FIGURE HER MYSTERIOUS MISTRESS MIGHT BE EQUALLY IN THE DARK ABOUT US?

I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT. SHE HAS THE SERVICES OF THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS TO CALL UPON.

WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.

VISION, BEGIN TRANSMITTING ALL TELEMETRY THE SCANNERS ARE PICKING UP BACK TO EARTH.

IF WE DON'T RETURN FROM THIS LITTLE JAUNT, LET'S HOPE SOMEONE CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF OUR FINDINGS.

"THAT'S NOT THE MOST CHEERY THOUGHT I'VE HEARD ALL DAY, REED."

"I'VE ALWAYS PREFFERRED THE REALIST TO THE OPTIMIST, IRON MAN. THEY TEND TO PRODUCE SOUNDER RESULTS."

WE ARE NOT ALONE OUT HERE. LEAD SCANNERS HAVE PICKED UP...

TWO INDIVIDUALS WE CAN ADD TO YOUR LIST OF MISSING PERSONS, VISION.

"THE SILVER SURFER AND FIRELORD?! DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THEY ARE THRALLS OF THIS GODDESS??"

"YES. WHY ELSE WOULD THEY BE OUT HERE?

"THE REAL QUESTION IS, HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THEM?"

"IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO."

"THEY'RE LETTING US PASS?!

"WHY?!"

BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY AN EVEN MORE PERILOUS SITUATION AWAITS US.

RIGHT AS USUAL, VISION. CHECK OUT THE FOWARD SCANNER.

I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED READINGS LIKE THESE BEFORE.

NOR I.

WHAT IS IT?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT OUGHT TO BE COMING INTO VIEW...

...RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

"THAT'S NOT COUNTER-EARTH, IS IT? THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DESTROYED."

"IT WAS MONTHS AGO, IRON MAN. THIS IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA, REED?"

"PROBABLY CREATED BY THE GODDESS AND HAS THIS PLACE GOT AN AWESOME DEFENSE SYSTEM!

"ANY ONE OF THOSE MANNED SATELLITES HAS THE ARMORY TO EASILY ERADICATE A HUNDRED QUINJETS."

"WHAT'S THAT NIMBUS AROUND THE PLANET?"

"FROM THE SCANNER READINGS I'D GUESS IT'S A VARIABLE WAVE-LENGTH ENERGY SHIELD.

"WE GET WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THAT RING AND IT'LL ATOMIZE US."

"THEN SHOULDN'T WE BE PUTTING THE BRAKES ON?"

FEAR NOT, TRESPASSERS, THE DEFENSIVE SCREEN WILL BE LOWERED AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

YOU SHALL NOT BE HARMED.

SO MUCH FOR US HAVING THE ELEMENT OF SUPRISE ON OUR SIDE.

"IT DOESN'T MATTER.

"WE CAME TO LEARN THE TRUTH.

"AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET IT.

"SO HANG ON TIGHT. THIS RIDE MIGHT GET A BIT BUMPY."

TARGET VESSEL OUT OF RANGE AND PROCEEDING TOWARD PLANET.

OVER AND OUT.

CRYSTAL, REED WAS ABOARD THAT VESSEL WE WERE PREPARED TO DESTROY.

I KNOW, SUE.

TO ANSWER THE CALL I LEFT SO MUCH BEHIND....

I HAD TO SAY GOODBYE TO REED, FRANKLIN... JOHNNY... EVERYTHING...

IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. YOU HAD NO CHOICE.

YOU'LL SEE.

WHEN THE RAPTURE OCCURS, ALL WILL BE MADE RIGHT.

ALL SOULS SHALL BE AS ONE AND HEAVEN WILL BE OURS.

THE GODDESS HAS ASSURED US THAT WE SHALL BE RE-UNITED WITH OUR LOVED ONES AND PERFECTION OF SPIRIT WILL BE THE NORM.

YES.

PERFECTION.

I KNOW.

"SENSORS SHOW A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE BUT NO COMPLEX LIFE FORMS OTHER THAN A FEW HUMANS WAITING FOR US AT WHAT APPEARS TO BE OUR LANDING ZONE."

"WE'RE HEADING INTO MAJOR TROUBLE, AREN'T WE?"

"MOST LIKELY."

"ANY IDEA HOW WE'RE GOING TO EXTRICATE OURSELVES FROM THIS MESS?"

GODDESS, I AM HERE!

BY USING REASON AND LOGIC.

AND RUNNING AWAY AS FAST AS WE CAN IF THAT DOESN'T WORK?

EXACTLY.

SO MUCH FOR PLAN "A".

GREETINGS, NON-BELIEVERS. WELCOME TO PARADISE OMEGA!

YOU HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TOUCH DOWN UPON HOLY SOIL, UNHARMED, FOR ONE REASON ONLY.

KNOW YOU THAT WE ARE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SUPREME ONE AND THAT NO INTERFERENCE IN THESE LABORS WILL BE TOLERATED.

YOU HAVE NOW SEEN HOW IM-PREGNABLE OUR DEFENSES ARE.

RETURN TO YOUR WORLD AND TELL YOUR FELLOW SINNERS THAT TO CROSS OUR WILL WOULD PROVE INSTANTLY FATAL.

WE'LL BE MORE THAN GLAD TO DO THAT, YOUR GODDESS-SHIP, BUT--

...IF YOU'RE REALLY SO ALL-POWERFUL, WHY DO YOU NEED THESE FOLLOWERS?

I DO NOT CLAIM OMNIPOTENCE. I TOO AM A SERVANT.

I WELCOME AND CHERISH THE AID MY FAITHFUL FRIENDS HAVE GIVEN TO ME FREELY AND WITH THEIR WHOLE HEARTS.

FREELY?

MY INSTRUMENTATION INDICATES OTHERWISE.

YOU DARE QUESTION MY WORD?

MY SCANNER IS PICKING UP HEAVY TELEPATHIC ENERGIES BEING DIRECTED FROM YOUR CONTAINMENT UNIT TO THE INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR RETINUE.

LIES!

MY MIND GEM WOULD HAVE LONG AGO PICKED UP ON ANY SUCH TELEPATIC ACTIVITY.

MOONDRAGON IS NO ONE'S THRALL!

ARE YOU CERTAIN?

YES.

GODDESS, IF YOU ARE TRULY ABOUT THE SUPREME ONE'S WORK, LET ME EXTEND AN OFFER.

SPEAK.

PRESENT ARE SOME OF EARTH'S FINEST MINDS. LET US HELP YOU IN YOUR LABORS.

SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF IT WERE BUT GIVEN IN A TRUE AND LOVING SPIRIT, DR. RICHARDS.

BUT I DO SENSE THE DUPLICITY OF YOUR WORDS.

YOU WOULD SABOTAGE OUR LOVING LABORS AT YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY, INFIDEL.

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

THAT IS WHY, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, NO ONE SHALL SET FOOT UPON PARADISE OMEGA UNLESS THEIR HEART IS PURE AND THEIR SOUL ONE WITH OUR OWN.

BE GONE, INFIDELS!

HUH?

WE'RE BACK ABOARD THE QUINJET!

AND ALIVE!

WHAT IS EVEN MORE REMARK-ABLE IS WHERE OUR CRAFT CURRENTLY IS.

"WE ARE IN ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET EARTH."

"OUR TELEMETRY?!"

ALL ON-BOARD COMPUTERS BANKS HAVE BEEN ERASED. I WOULD IMAGINE THE SIGNAL WE TRANSMITTED BACK TO EARTH HAS ALSO BEEN ERADICATED.

A WASTED TRIP.

NOT ENTIRELY.

WE ARE NOW ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT OUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN MENTALLY ENSLAVED AND CAN NOW DEAL WITH THEM ACCORDINGLY.

I WONDER WHY THIS GODDESS JUST DIDN'T DO THE SAME TO US?

PERHAPS SHE DIDN'T FEEL WE WERE WORTHY OF THE HONOR.

MORE LIKELY SHE MERELY HAD NO REAL NEED FOR US.

A SHORT TIME LATER, BACK AT AVENGERS' H.Q. ...

...AND THAT'S ALL WE PRESENTLY KNOW.

QUITE A TALE, PROFESSOR. WILL YOU BE RETURNING DIRECTLY...?

NO, WE HAVE ONE STOP TO MAKE.

THIS GODDESS SEEMS LIKE ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER.

TRUE, BUT I'M NOT SURE I AGREE WITH ALL OF DR. RICHARDS' CONCLUSIONS ABOUT HER.

WHAT YA MEAN?

WHAT IF THE GODDESS'S END GOAL IS AS SHE CLAIMS?

LADY, DID YOU FLIP A COG OR SOMETHING?

I TOO AM NOT YET 100% CERTAIN THIS GODDESS SHOULD BE TREATED AS A VILLAIN.

YOU'RE NOT BUYING INTO HER ACT ABOUT BEING A SAINT, ARE YOU??

NO. NOR AM I CLOSING MY MIND TO ANY POSSIBILITIES.

WHERE I COME FROM THE GOOD GUYS DON'T GO AROUND ENSLAVING FOLKS' MINDS.

GRANTED. BUT WE ARE DEALING WITH A VERY UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL--

--UNDER EXTREMELY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

SHE CLAIMS TO BE ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS AND THAT MAY YET PROVE TO BE TRUE.

MIGHT NOT HER MENTAL DOMINATION OF OUR FELLOW PARANORMALS BE COMPARED TO THE AVENGERS' DEFENSIVE ARMORY AROUND THIS ISLAND?

DO WE REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE THIS BEING BY OUR OWN STANDARDS?

IF WE COULD DELIVER ON WHAT THE GODDESS PROMISES, TO WHAT LENGTHS WOULD WE GO TO DEFEND THAT GOAL?

IF SHE CAN ERADICATE ALL EVIL FROM THE UNIVERSE, DON'T YOU FIGURE THERE REALLY WOULD BE DARK FORCES OUT TO GET HER?

YEP. DOOM, THANOS, MEPHISTO, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

C'MON NOW!

WE'RE THE GUYS IN THE WHITE HATS! IF SHE'S STRAIGHT, WHY'S SHE CUTTING US OUT OF THE ACTION?

PERHAPS WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH BY HER MEASURE.

OR DUMB ENOUGH TO BUY HER LINE OF BULL DROP-PINGS.

ALL SPECULATION. ALL USELESS DEBATE.

THE TRUTH IS THE GODDESS IS PLAYING WITH FORCES THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW TO RUN UNCHECKED.

DESPITE WHAT ANY OF US THINK, WE ALL KNOW THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS SECOND COMING TO DAWN WITHOUT US KNOWING WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT SUNRISE.

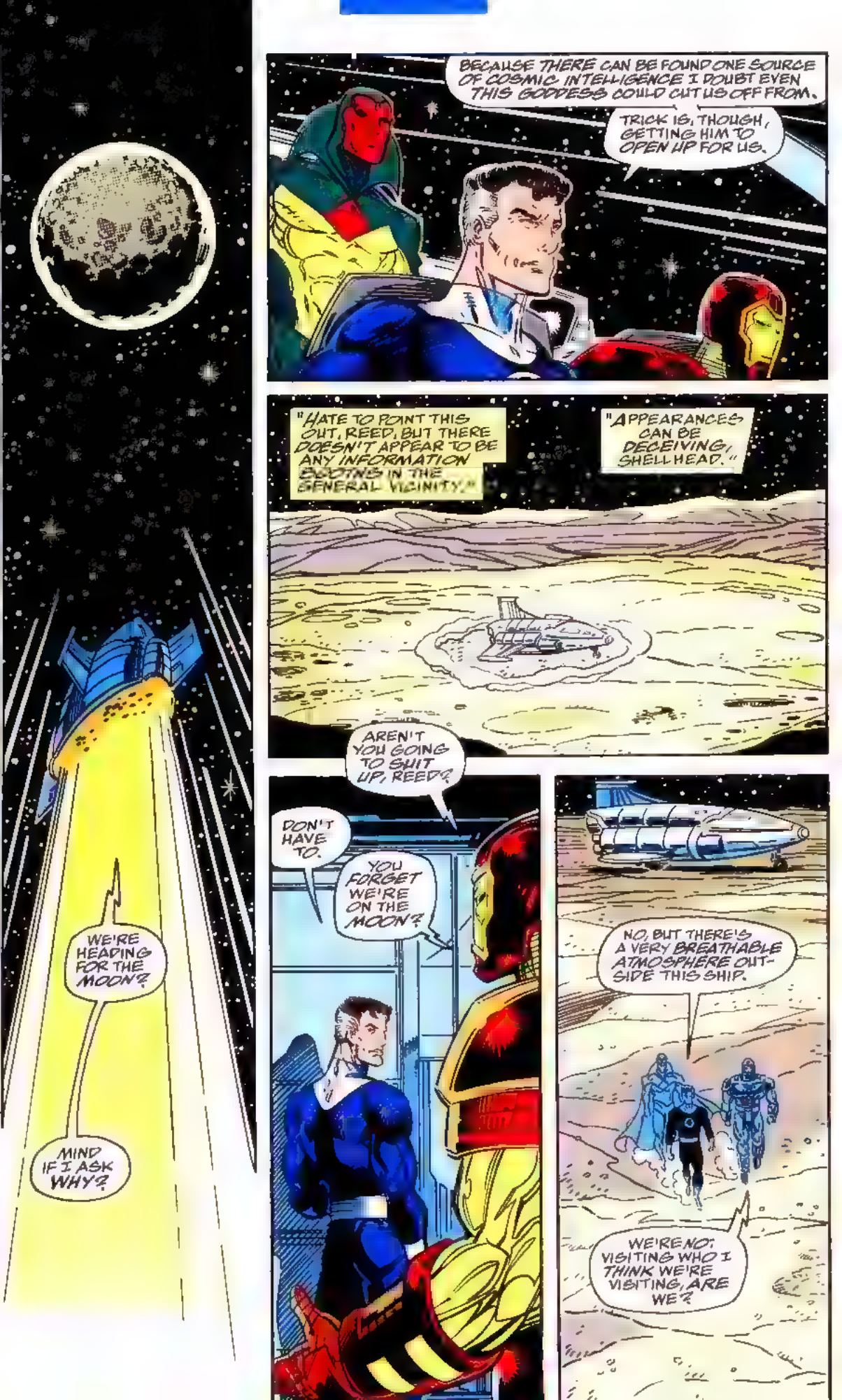
EXILED INTO A DISTANT DIMENSION BY SUPPOSEDLY HIS GOOD FEMININE SELF...

...HE AWOKE TO FIND REALITY RUPTURED AND IN NEED OF MENDING.

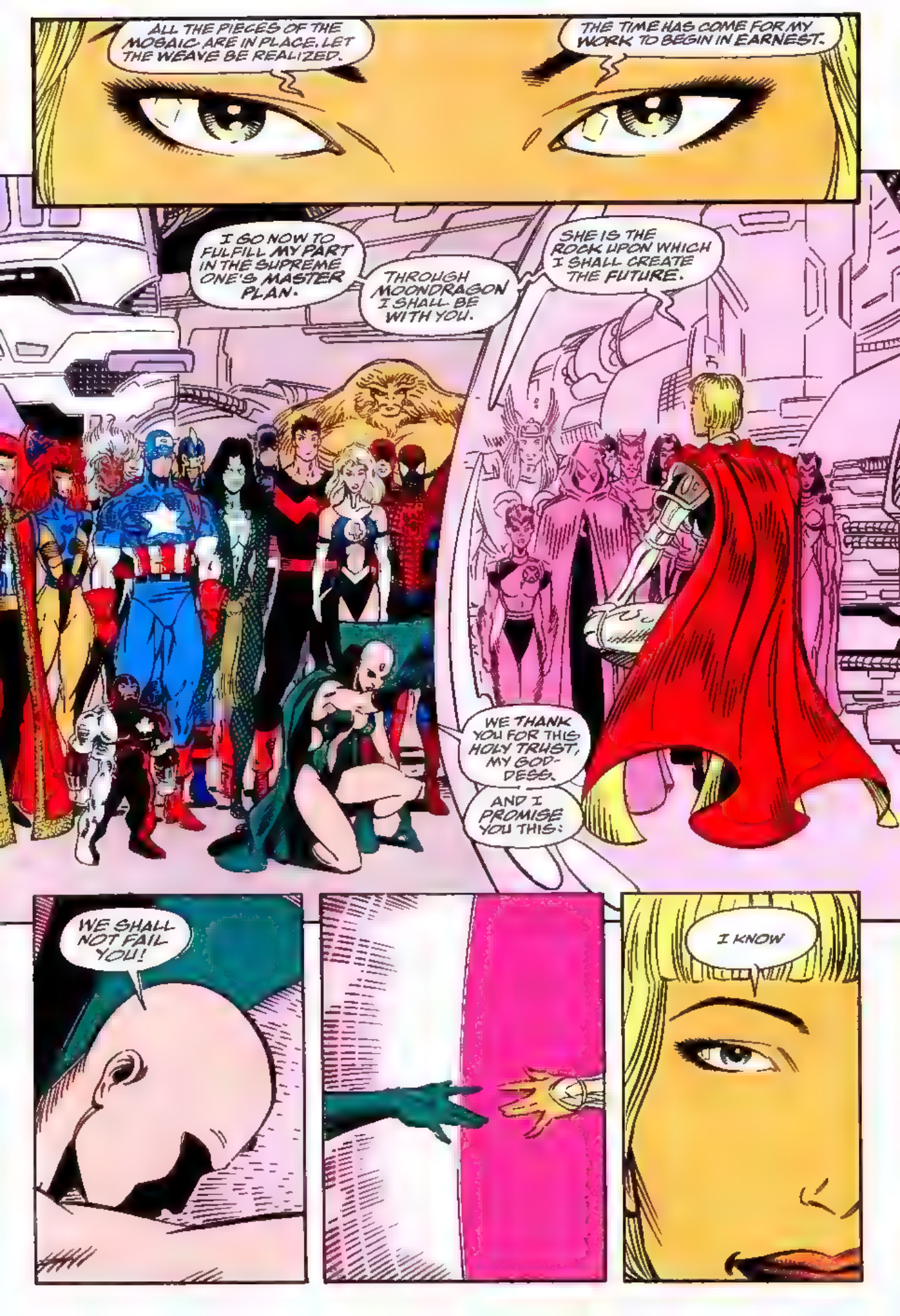
THE CAUSE AND CURE FOR THIS MALADY CAN ONLY BE ONE AND THE SAME.

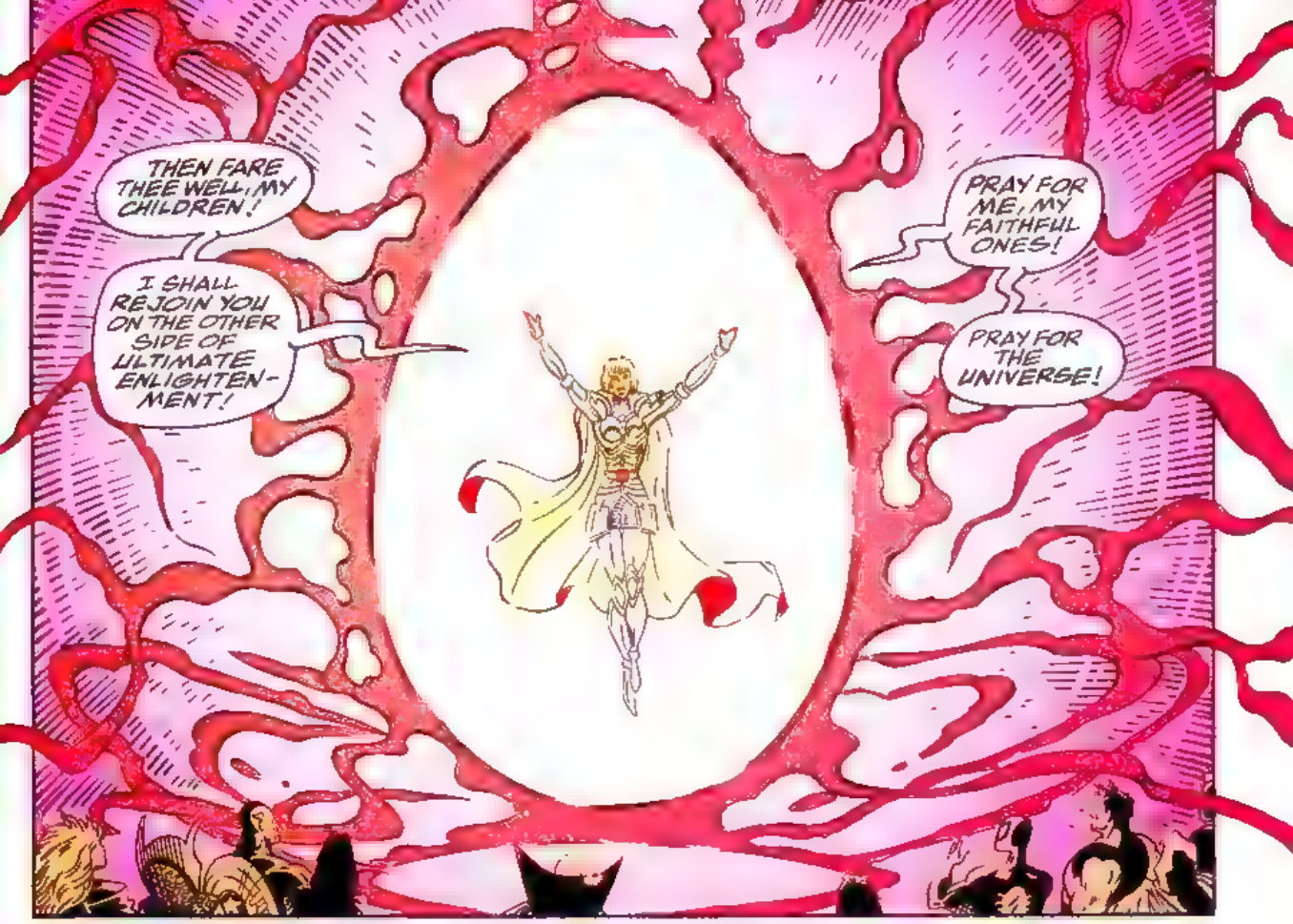
SO ADAM WARLOCK PLUNGES INTO THE DEPTHS OF DISTORTED ACTUALITY...

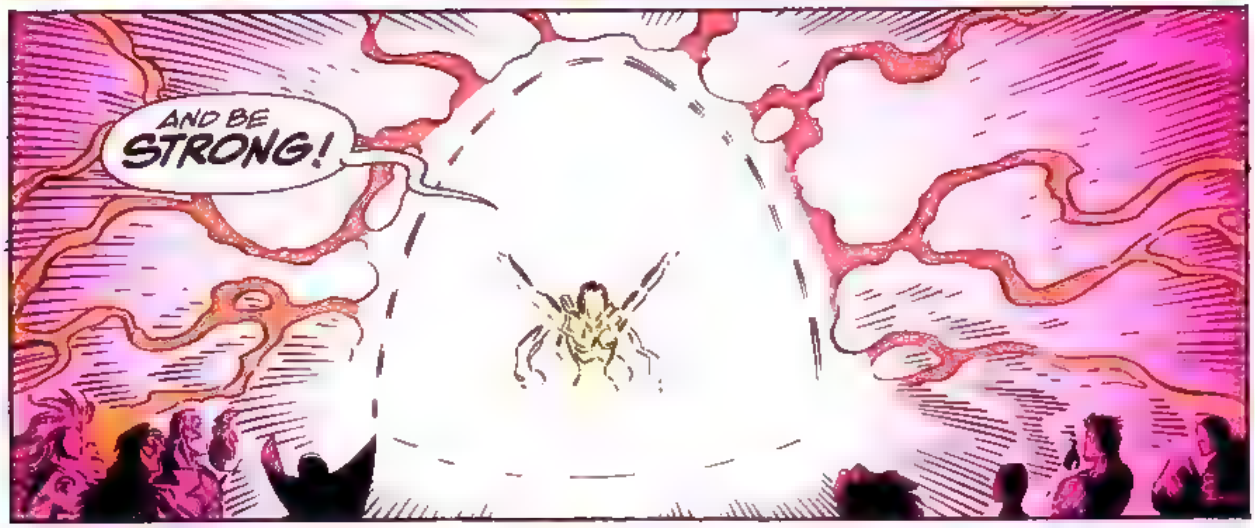
..IN ORDER TO RESCUE THE GUARDIAN OF THE REALITY GEM!

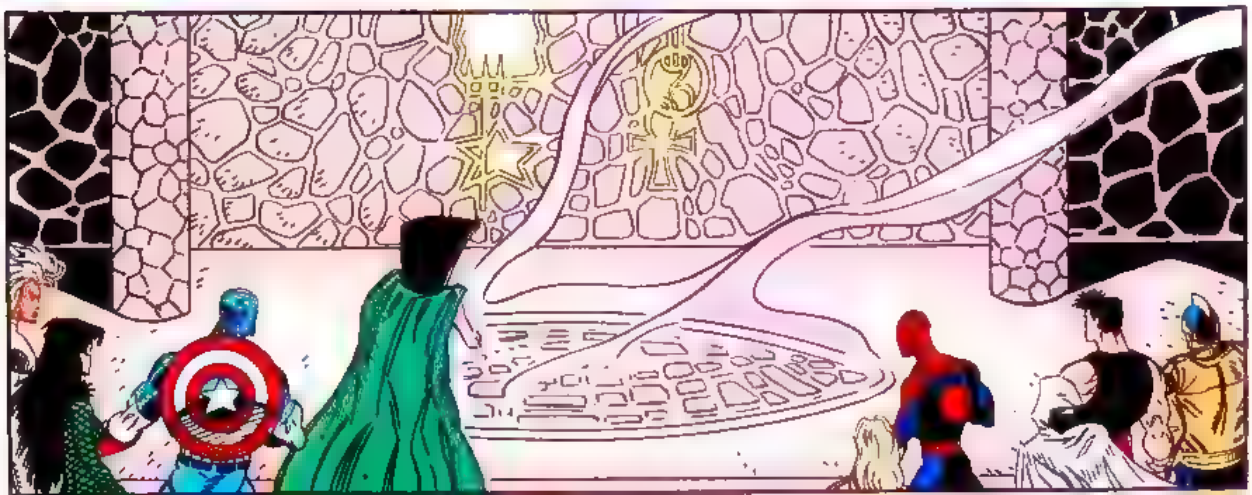

WE'RE HEADING FOR THE MOON?
MIND IF I ASK WHY?
BECAUSE THERE CAN BE FOUND ONE SOURCE OF COSMIC INTELLIGENCE I DOUBT EVEN THIS GODDESS COULD CUT US OFF FROM.
TRICK IS, THOUGH, GETTING HIM TO OPEN UP FOR US.
"HATE TO POINT THIS OUT, REED, BUT THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY INFORMATION BEEPING IN THE GENERAL VICINITY."
"APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING, SHELLHEAD."
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SUIT UP, REED?
DON'T HAVE TO.
YOU FORGET WE'RE ON THE MOON?
NO, BUT THERE'S A VERY BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE OUTSIDE THIS SHIP.
WE'RE NOT VISITING WHO I THINK WE'RE VISITING, ARE WE?

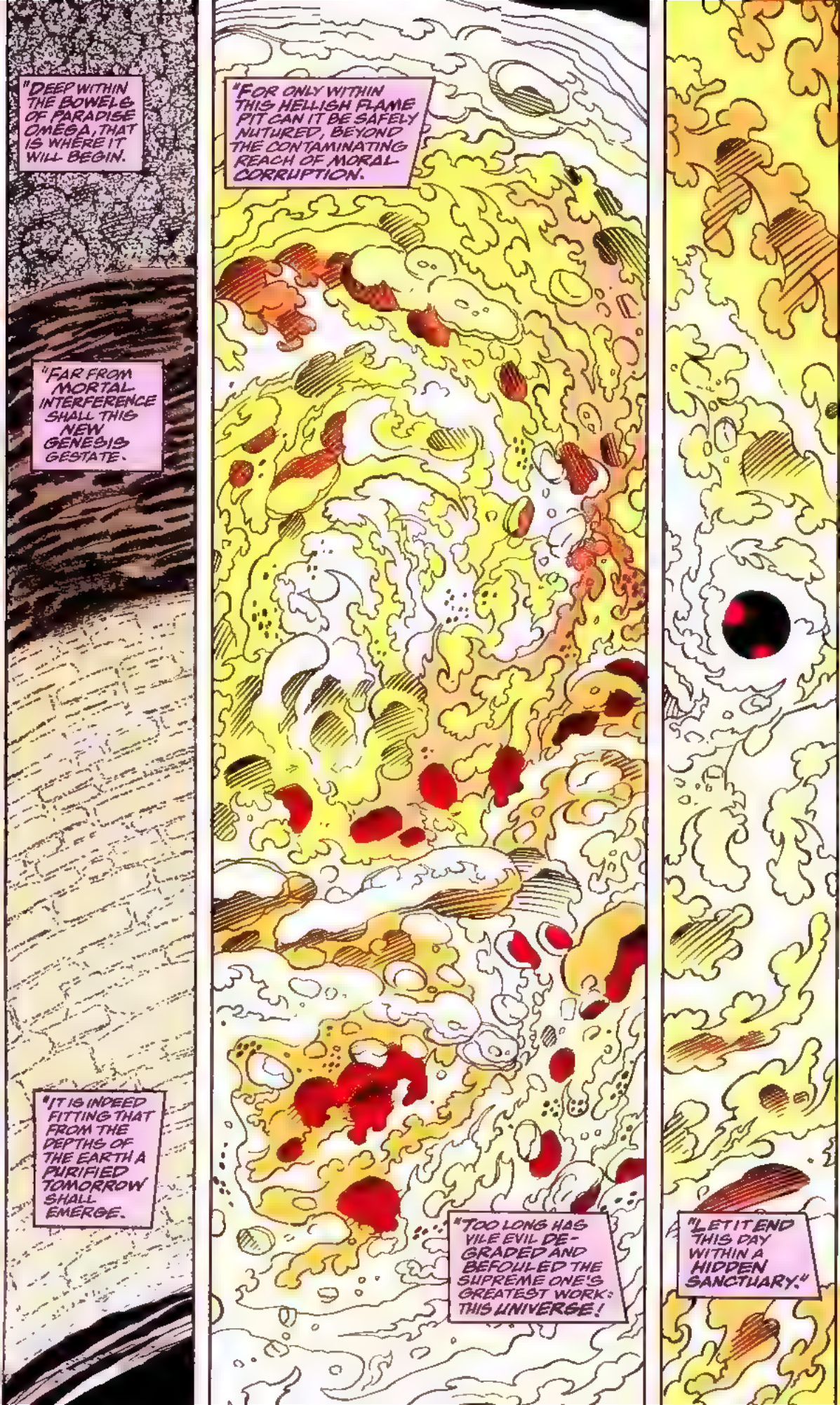
IRON MAN ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO -
"...THE WATCHER!"

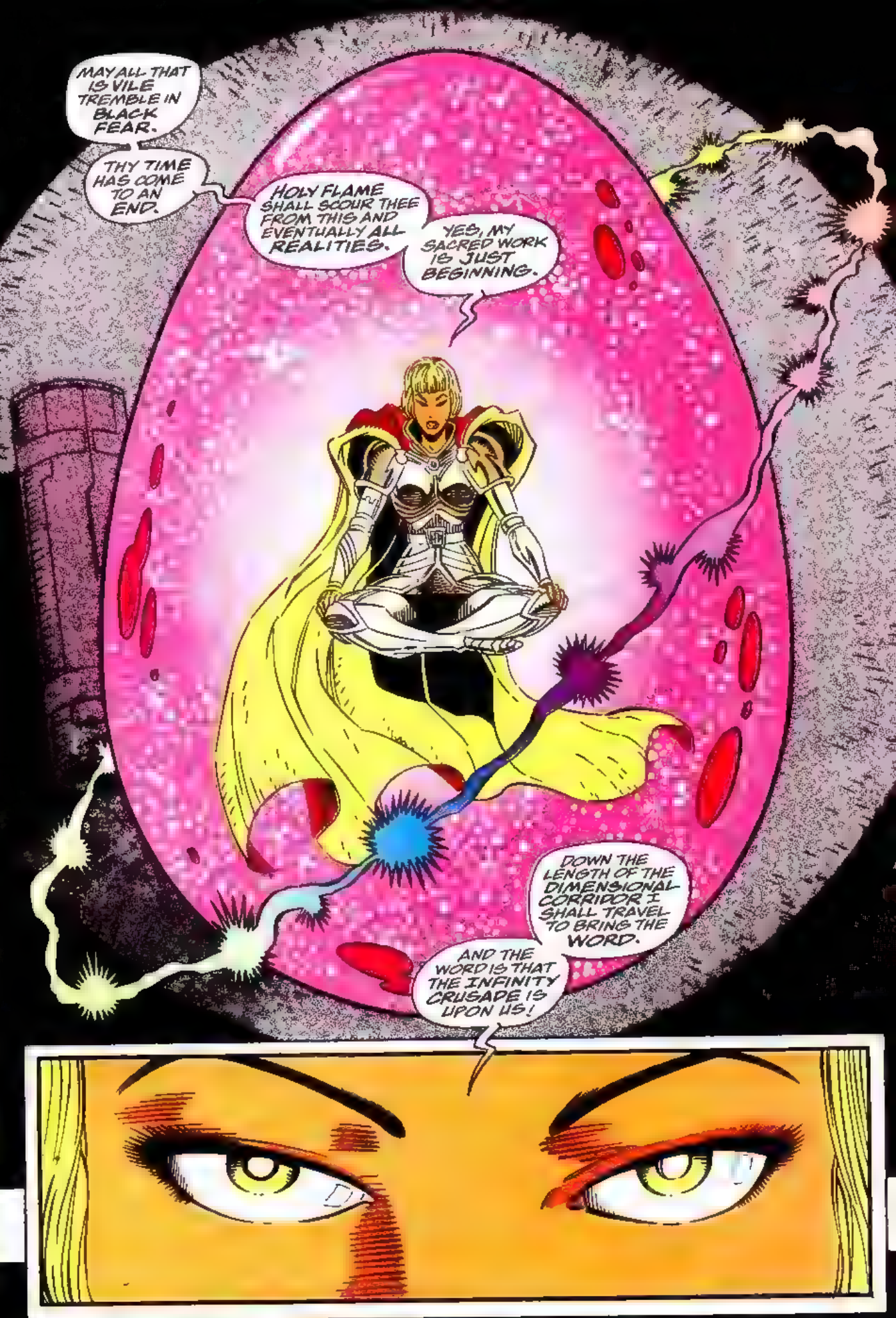

ALL THE PIECES OF THE MOSAIC ARE IN PLACE. LET THE WEAVE BE REALIZED.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR MY WORK TO BEGIN IN EARNEST.
I GO NOW TO FULFILL MY PART IN THE SUPREME ONE'S MASTER PLAN.
THROUGH MOONDRAGON I SHALL BE WITH YOU.
SHE IS THE ROCK UPON WHICH I SHALL CREATE THE FUTURE.
WE THANK YOU FOR THIS HOLY TRUST, MY GOD-DESS.
AND I PROMISE YOU THIS:
WE SHALL NOT FAIL YOU!
I KNOW

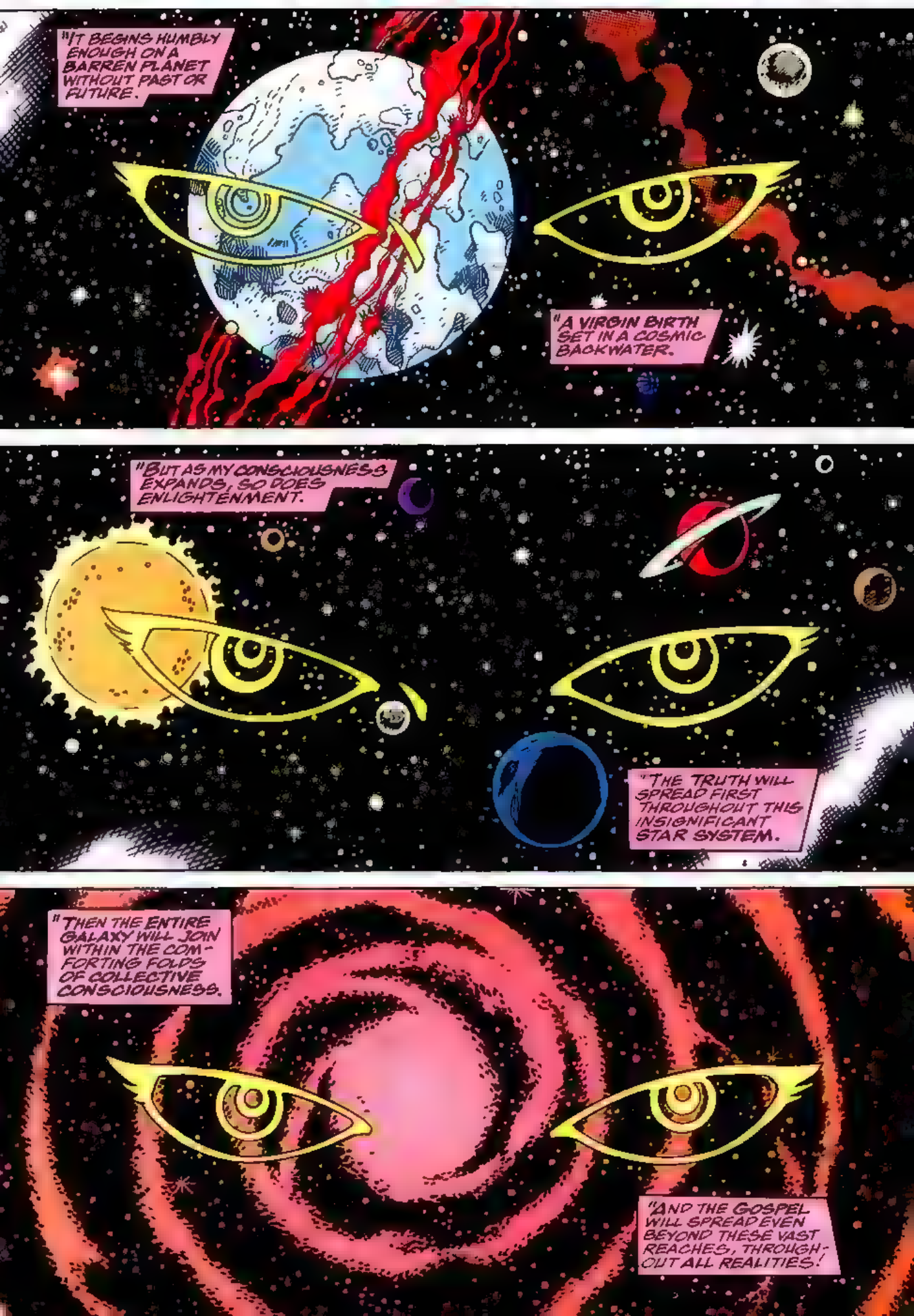

THEN FARE THEE WELL, MY CHILDREN!
I SHALL REJOIN YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ULTIMATE ENLIGHTEN-MENT!
PRAY FOR ME, MY FAITHFUL ONES!
PRAY FOR THE UNIVERSE!


AND BE STRONG!




"DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF PARADISE OMEGA, THAT IS WHERE IT WILL BEGIN.
"FAR FROM MORTAL INTERFERENCE SHALL THIS NEW GENESIS GESTATE.
"IT IS INDEED FITTING THAT FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH A PURIFIED TOMORROW SHALL EMERGE.
"FOR ONLY WITHIN THIS HELLISH FLAME PIT CAN IT BE SAFELY NURTURED, BEYOND THE CONTAMINATING REACH OF MORAL CORRUPTION.
"TOO LONG HAS VILE EVIL DEGRADED AND BEFOULED THE SUPREME ONE'S GREATEST WORK: THIS UNIVERSE!
"LET IT END THIS DAY WITHIN A HIDDEN SANCTUARY."


MAY ALL THAT IS VILE TREMBLE IN BLACK FEAR.
THY TIME HAS COME TO AN END.
HOLY FLAME SHALL SCOUR THEE FROM THIS AND EVENTUALLY ALL REALITIES.
YES, MY SACRED WORK IS JUST BEGINNING.
DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR I SHALL TRAVEL TO BRING THE WORD.
AND THE WORD IS THAT THE INFINITY CRUSADE IS UPON US!


"IT BEGINS HUMBLY ENOUGH ON A BARREN PLANET WITHOUT PAST OR FUTURE.
"A VIRGIN BIRTH SET IN A COSMIC BACKWATER.
"BUT AS MY CONSCIOUSNESS EXPANDS, SO DOES ENLIGHTENMENT.
"THE TRUTH WILL SPREAD FIRST THROUGHOUT THIS INSIGNIFICANT STAR SYSTEM.
"THEN THE ENTIRE GALAXY WILL JOIN WITHIN THE COMFORTING FOLDS OF COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS.
"AND THE GOSPEL WILL SPREAD EVEN BEYOND THESE VAST REACHES, THROUGHOUT ALL REALITIES!

"SO BEGINS THE RAPTURE!"
THE WONDERMENT AND MYSTERY WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK IN THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2!
THEN FOLLOW OUR UNFOLDING TALE OF ASTRAL ADVENTURE IN 2 WEEKS IN WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #19!
AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK REJOIN US HERE FOR THE INFINITY CRUSADE #3 AND—
DAMNATION!
• DON'T MISS SEEING HOW THE GODDESS AFFECTS OUR SUPER HEROES IN AVENGERS WEST COAST #97, CAGE #17, DARKHAWK #30 AND ALPHA FLIGHT #123!

MARVEL COMICS
ENTRANCED BY THE GODDESS
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
PLUS: From the pages of MAXIMUM CARNAGE — NIGHTWATCH!
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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™

DOWNTOWN NEW YORK...
SPIDER MAN'S TEARIN' US APART--!
BURY HIM, BEDROCKS!
POOT
THOK
POOM
YOU BOYS TRIED THAT WHEN I WAS BROKEN AND BLEEDING*..
--YOU ALMOST WON THEN, BUT YOU WON'T WIN NOW!
* WEB OF SPIDER MAN #101. --ERIC

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IT'S PAYBACK TIME FOR YOU CREEPS.
HE DON'T STAY STILL LONG ENOUGH TO--
...SINCE YOU EXPANDED YOUR GANG'S HORIZONS WHILE I WAS BUSY FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE TO PROTECT YOU PUNKS*--
--AND THIS WHOLE MISERABLE CITY--FROM CARNAGE AND COMPANY.
IT TOOK ME ALL NIGHT TO FIND YOU, ROCKS.
YOUR ANGER AND FRUSTRATION WITH THE ENEMIES OF THE LIGHT ARE JUSTIFIED, SPIDER-MAN.
*SPIDER-MAN #36.--ERIC
THAT LIGHT--BLINDING!
BEAUTIFUL...

CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE

PART 1 OF 3--INFINITY CRUSADER

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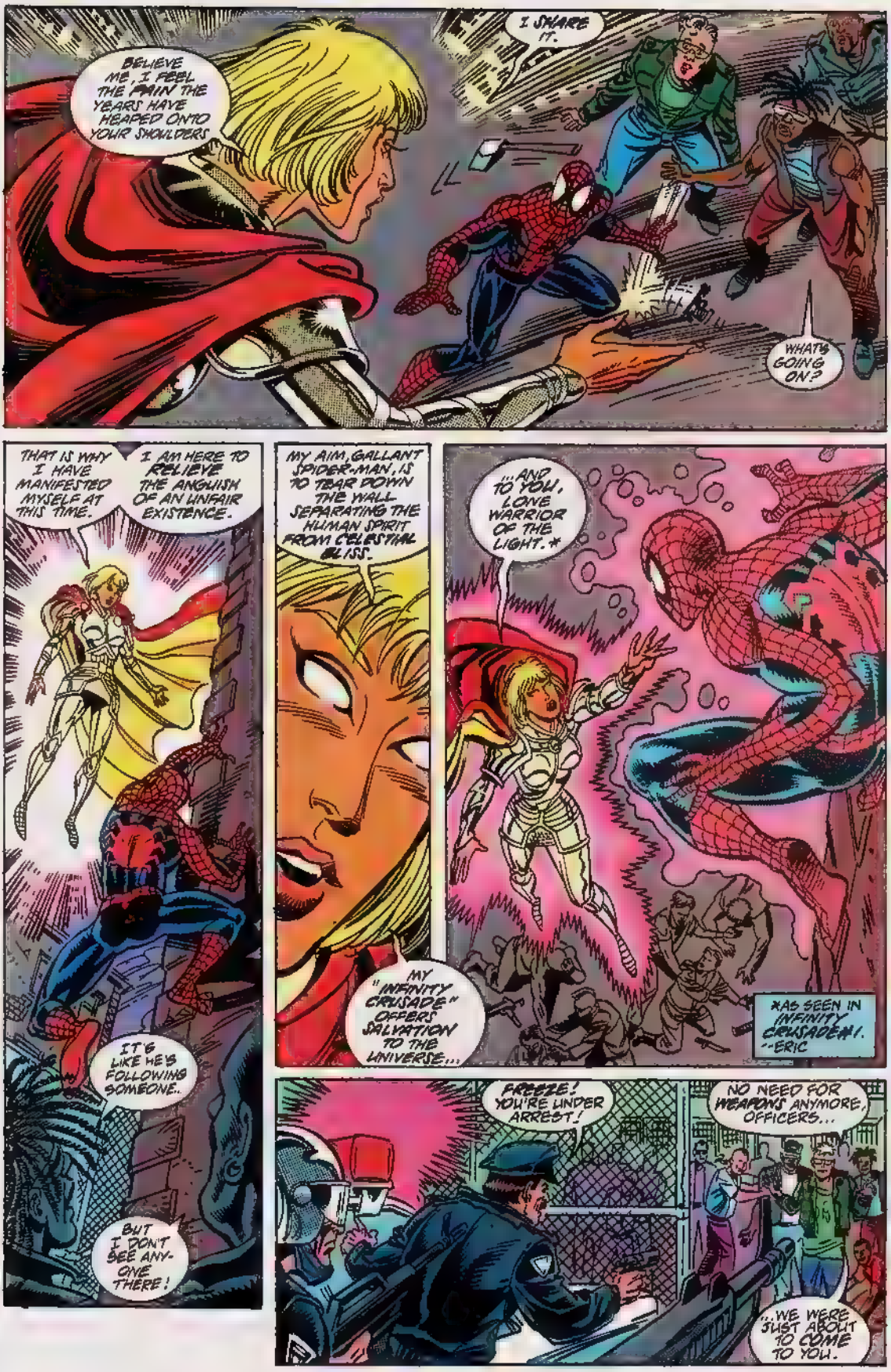
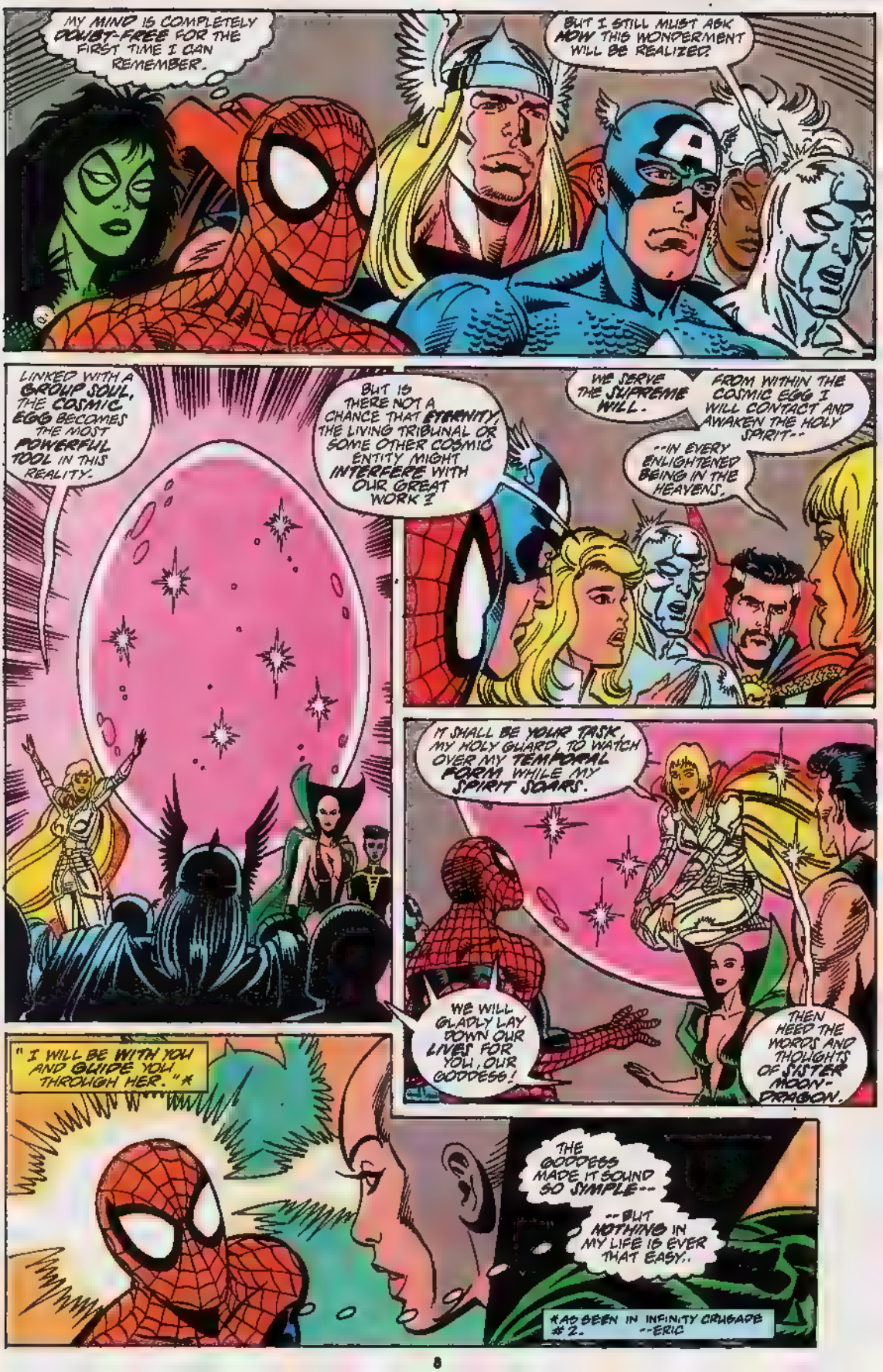
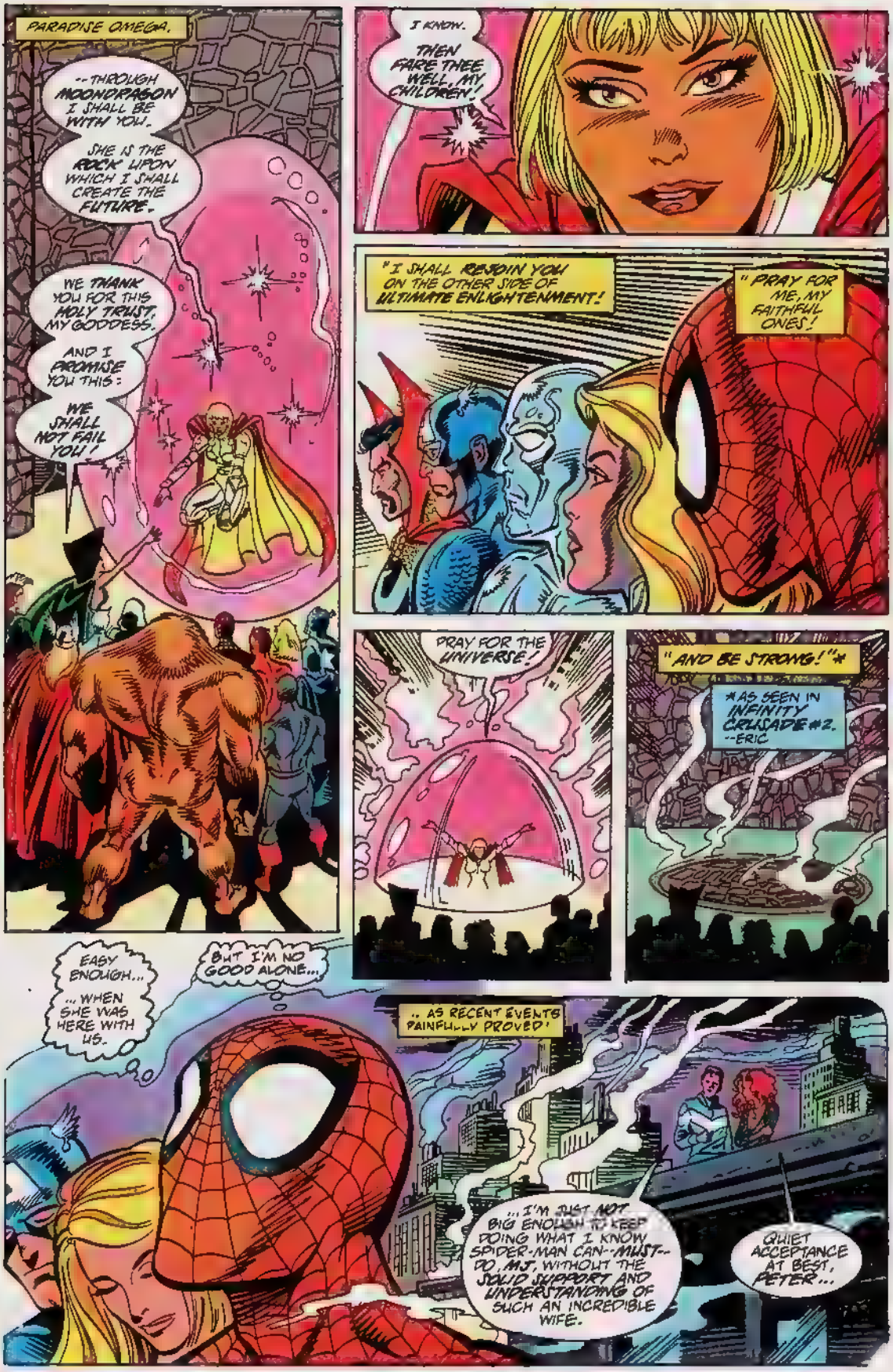

BELIEVE ME, I FEEL THE PAIN THE YEARS HAVE HEAPED ONTO YOUR SHOULDERS
I SHARE IT.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT IS WHY I HAVE MANIFESTED MYSELF AT THIS TIME.
I AM HERE TO RELIEVE THE ANGUISH OF AN UNFAIR EXISTENCE.
IT'S LIKE HE'S FOLLOWING SOMEONE..
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY-ONE THERE!
MY AIM, GALLANT SPIDER-MAN, IS TO TEAR DOWN THE WALL SEPARATING THE HUMAN SPIRIT FROM CELESTIAL BLISS.
MY "INFINITY CRUSADE" OFFERS SALVATION TO THE UNIVERSE...
...AND TO YOU, LOVE WARRIOR OF THE LIGHT.*
*AS SEEN IN INFINITY CRUSADE #1. --ERIC
FREEZE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
NO NEED FOR WEAPONS ANYMORE, OFFICERS...
...WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO COME TO YOU.

UPTOWN, AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
SOMEONE'S TURNING ALL THE BAD GUYS INTO HONEST CITIZENS?
WHY?
I BELIEVE OUR FELLOW PARANORMALS WERE MESMERIZED INTO AIDING IN THEIR OWN KIDNAPPINGS...
...AND THESE SAME TRANSMISSIONS APPEAR TO BE AFFECTING ALL THE CRIMINAL MINDS ON EARTH.
OBVIOUSLY TO FURTHER THE HIDDEN AGENDA OF THE LADY WHOM I BELIEVE HAS ENGINEERED THIS SITUATION.
PARADISE OMEGA, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN.
THERE ARE CERTAIN DREAMS NO ONE ENTITY SHOULD FORCE UPON REALITY.
BUT BILLIONS OF BELIEVERS CAN ALTER THE HEAVENS.
WITH YOUR HELP, MY CHILDREN, THIS UNION SHALL BE FORGED.
BELIEVE IN ME AND WE WILL DELIVER THIS UNIVERSE FROM ALL THE PAIN AND SORROW WHICH IS NOW ITS LOT.
THE GODDESS RADIATES SUCH CONFIDENCE OF PURPOSE, I CAN'T HELP BUT RESPOND TO HER ALLURE WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL.


MY MIND IS COMPLETELY DOUBT-FREE FOR THE FIRST TIME I CAN REMEMBER.
BUT I STILL MUST ASK HOW THIS WONDERMENT WILL BE REALIZED?
LINKED WITH A GROUP SOUL, THE COSMIC EGG BECOMES THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL IN THIS REALITY.
BUT IS THERE NOT A CHANCE THAT ETERNITY, THE LIVING TRIBUNAL OR SOME OTHER COSMIC ENTITY MIGHT INTERFERE WITH OUR GREAT WORK?
WE SERVE THE SUPREME WILL.
FROM WITHIN THE COSMIC EGG I WILL CONTACT AND AWAKEN THE HOLY SPIRIT--
--IN EVERY ENLIGHTENED BEING IN THE HEAVENS.
IT SHALL BE YOUR TASK MY HOLY GUARD, TO WATCH OVER MY TEMPORAL FORM WHILE MY SPIRIT SOARS.
WE WILL GLADLY LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR YOU, OUR GODDESS!
THEN HEED THE WORDS AND THOUGHTS OF SISTER MOON-DRAGON.
" I WILL BE WITH YOU AND GUIDE YOU THROUGH HER. "*
THE GODDESS MADE IT SOUND SO SIMPLE--
--BUT NOTHING IN MY LIFE IS EVER THAT EASY..
*HAS BEEN IN INFINITY CRUSADE #2. --ERIC

EARTH, MIDTOWN MANHATTAN..
REPAIRMEN ARE SCHEDULED TO START ON THE DAILY BUGLE SIGN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING...
...SO MY WORK HERE IS DONE FOR THE NIGHT.
CITY'S BEEN UNNATURALLY QUIET LATELY...
...PARTICULARLY IRONIC CONSIDERING THE RECENT CHAOS THAT RIPPED THROUGH HERE RECENTLY.
ROBERTSON!
THESE INTERIOR PROOFS FOR TOMORROW'S EDITION ARE GARBAGE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?
EVEN IF MAN-MADE VIOLENCE ACROSS THE GLOBE HAS MOMENTARILY STOPPED DEAD-- AND CRIME IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW--
--OUR PEOPLE ARE PAID TO FIND A DRAMATIC CEASE-FIRE OR TRUCE, AT LEAST, TO FOCUS A STORY AROUND.
BUT WHEN--AND IF-- THE WORLD STOPS OFFERING NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT...
...I EXPECT MY EDITOR IN CHIEF TO BE OUT ON THE STREETS MAKING IT!

YOU BETTER NOT MEAN THAT JONAH.
JUST GO HOME TO MARLA AND ENJOY THIS TEMPORARY PEACE LIKE THE REST OF US MERE MORTALS.
GOOD NEWS DOESN'T SELL NEWSPAPERS, MAN--!
CHECK OUT THE HEADLINE MOCK-UP FOR TOMORROW, MR. PUBLISHER, SIR...
...THERE'LL NEVER BE A SHORTAGE OF ACCIDENTAL BAD NEWS FOR YOU--US-- TO CASH IN ON.
DAILY BUGLE
ELECTRICAL FIRE FRIES FOUR!
I KNOW MY JOB, JAMESON.
AND I'M GETTING TOO OLD TO TAKE THIS GARBAGE.
GOOD NIGHT, ROBBIE.
SAY HELLO TO MARTHA FOR ME.
SOON...
ABOUT TIME, BIG GUY.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF CATCHING UP TO DO.
SORRY. USUAL TROUBLE WITH THE BOSS.
BUT I COULD HARDLY TELL HIM I WAS HURRYING TO ANOTHER SECRET RENDEZVOUS WITH OUR STAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER-- BETTY BRANT.
THEY'LL ALL LEARN THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH, ROBBIE.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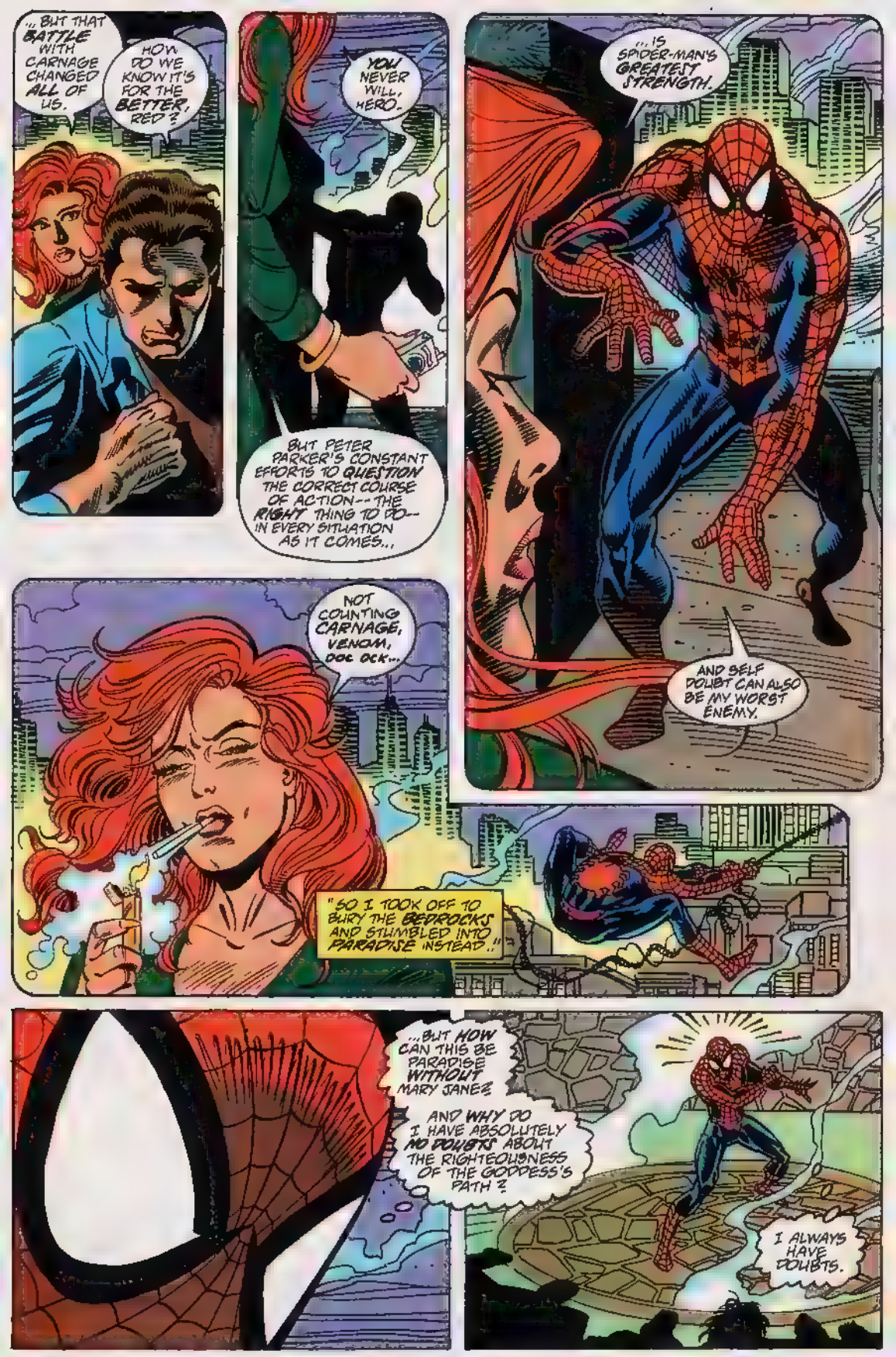
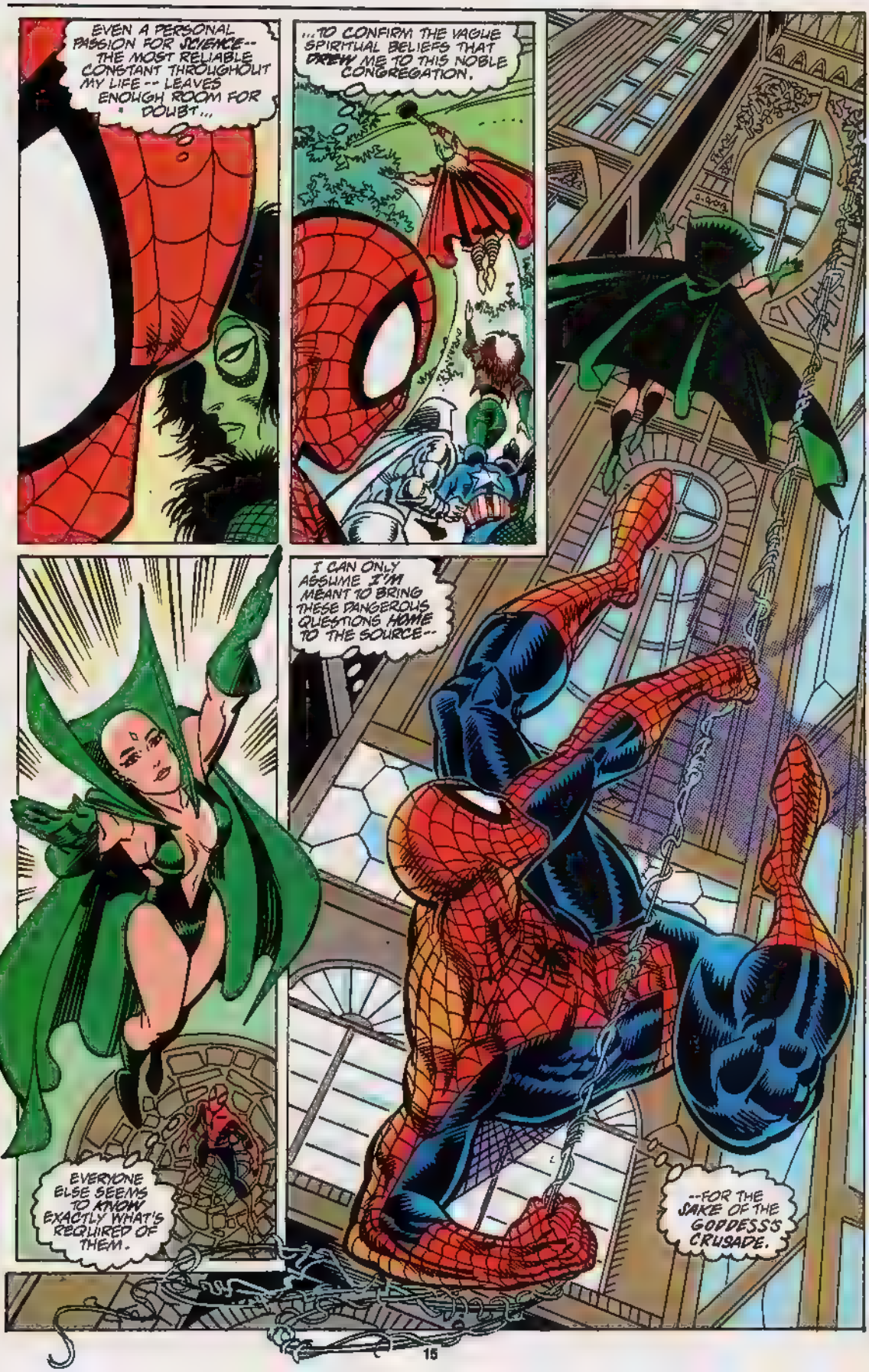
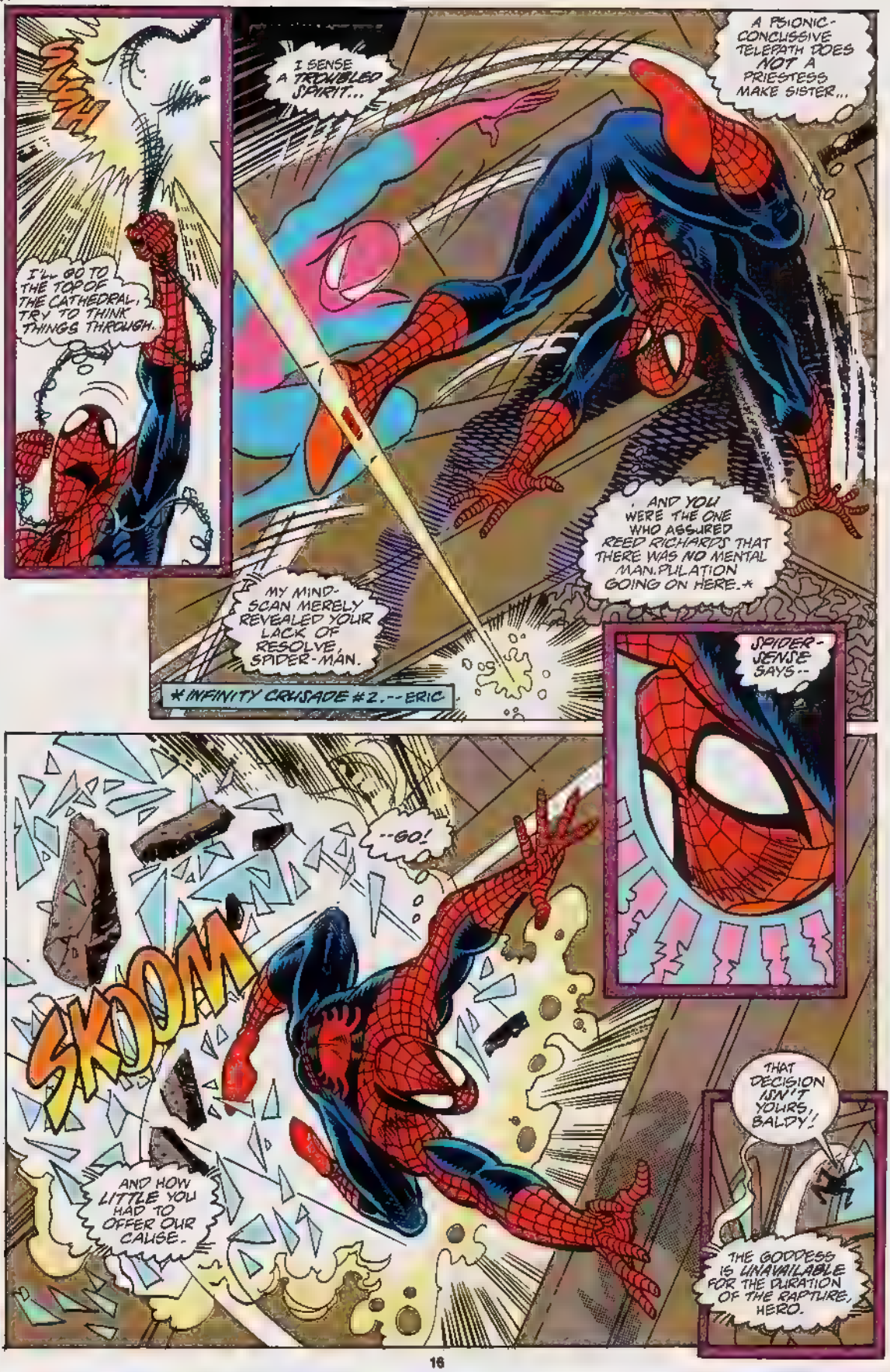
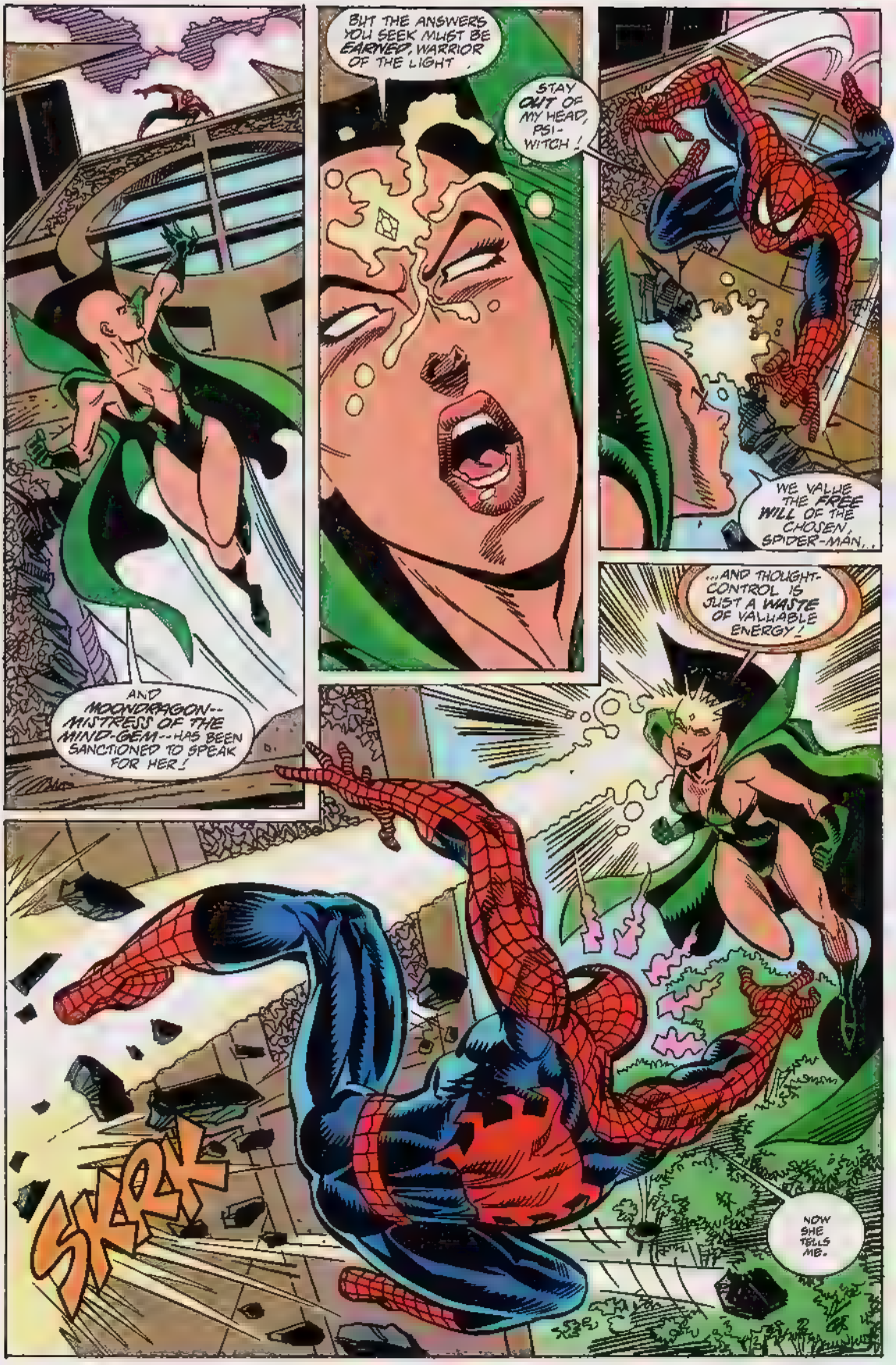
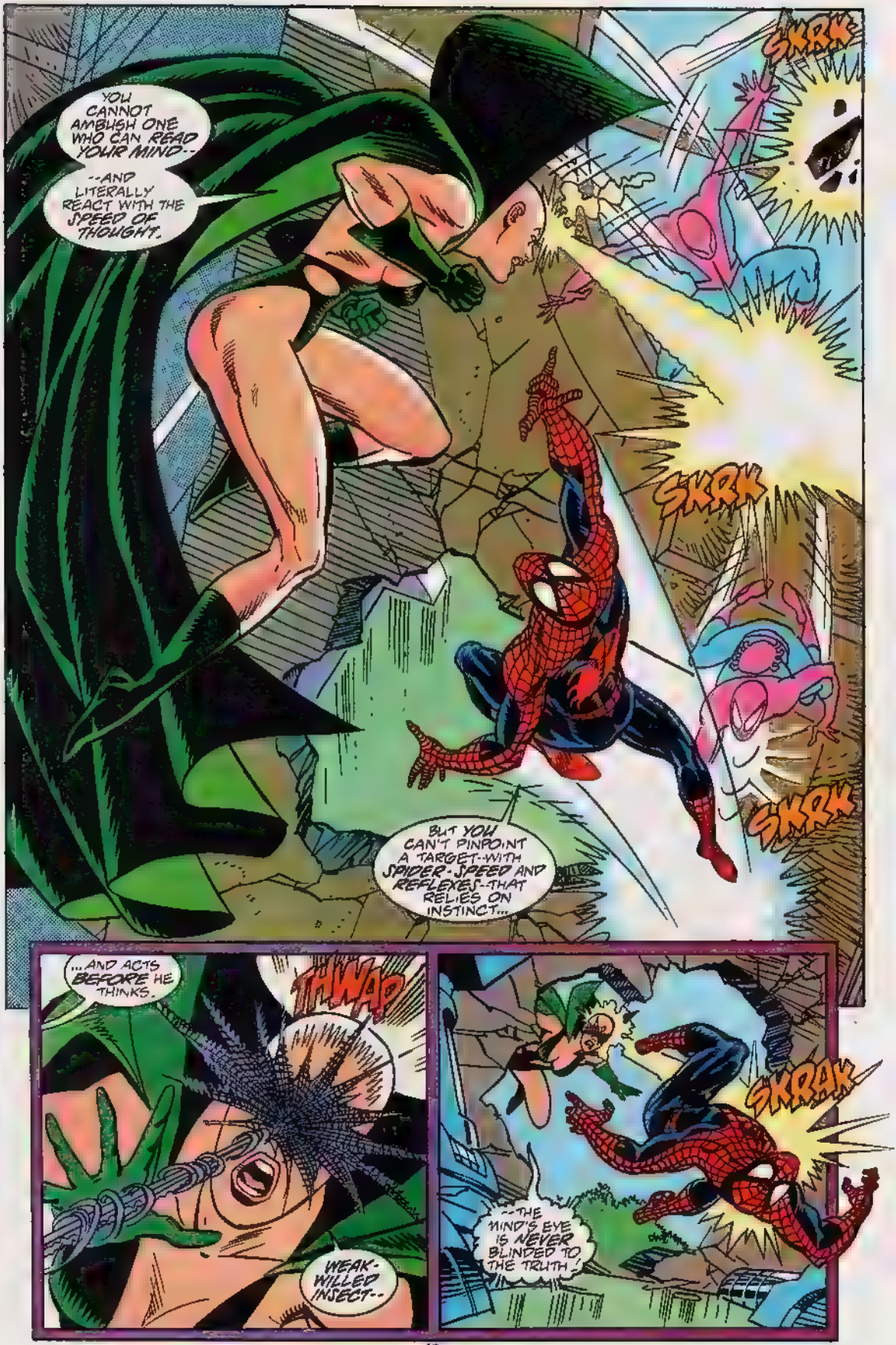
AND I PROMISE YOU THIS:
WE SHALL NOT FAIL YOU!
I KNOW.
THEN FARE THEE WELL, MY CHILDREN!
"I SHALL REJOIN YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ULTIMATE ENLIGHTENMENT!
"PRAY FOR ME, MY FAITHFUL ONES!
PRAY FOR THE UNIVERSE!
"AND BE STRONG!"*
*AS SEEN IN INFINITY CRUSADE #2. --ERIC
EASY ENOUGH...
...WHEN SHE WAS HERE WITH US.
BUT I'M NO GOOD ALONE...
.. AS RECENT EVENTS PAINFULLY PROVED!
...I'M JUST NOT BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP DOING WHAT I KNOW SPIDER-MAN CAN--MUST--DO, MJ, WITHOUT THE SOLID SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF SUCH AN INCREDIBLE WIFE.
QUIET ACCEPTANCE AT BEST, PETER...


"...BUT THAT BATTLE WITH CARNAGE CHANGED ALL OF US.
HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S FOR THE BETTER, RED?
YOU NEVER WILL, HERO.
BUT PETER PARKER'S CONSTANT EFFORTS TO QUESTION THE CORRECT COURSE OF ACTION--THE RIGHT THING TO DO--IN EVERY SITUATION AS IT COMES...
"...IS SPIDER-MAN'S GREATEST STRENGTH.
AND SELF DOUBT CAN ALSO BE MY WORST ENEMY.
NOT COUNTING CARNAGE, VENOM, DOC OCK...
"SO I TOOK OFF TO BURY THE BEDROCKS AND STUMBLED INTO PARADISE INSTEAD."
...BUT HOW CAN THIS BE PARADISE WITHOUT MARY JANE?
AND WHY DO I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE GODDESS'S PATH?
I ALWAYS HAVE DOUBTS.

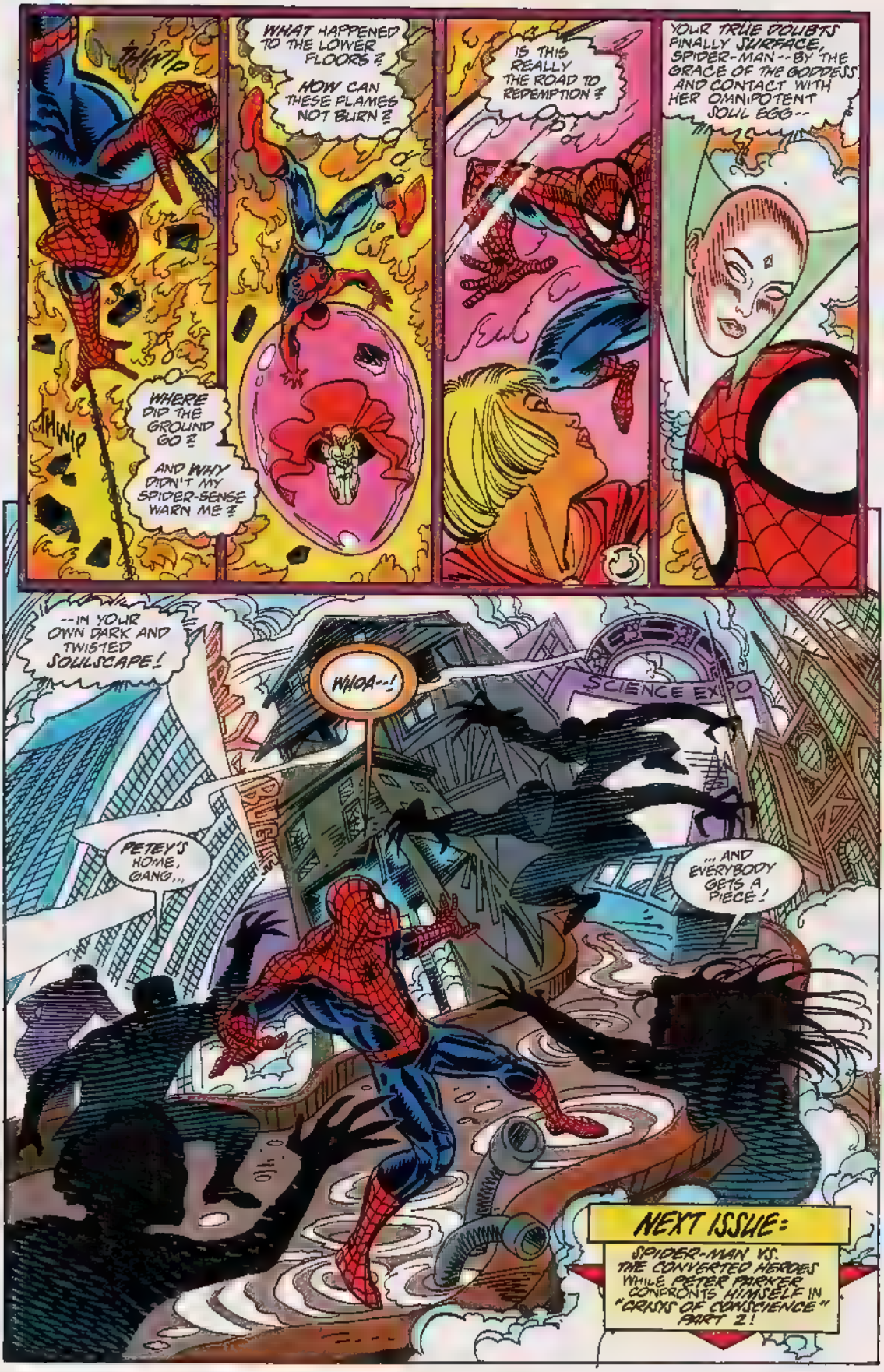

EVEN A PERSONAL PASSION FOR SCIENCE-- THE MOST RELIABLE CONSTANT THROUGHOUT MY LIFE -- LEAVES ENOUGH ROOM FOR DOUBT...
...TO CONFIRM THE VAGUE SPIRITUAL BELIEFS THAT DREW ME TO THIS NOBLE CONGREGATION.
I CAN ONLY ASSUME I'M MEANT TO BRING THESE DANGEROUS QUESTIONS HOME TO THE SOURCE--
EVERYONE ELSE SEEMS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S REQUIRED OF THEM.
--FOR THE SAKE OF THE GODDESS'S CRUSADE.

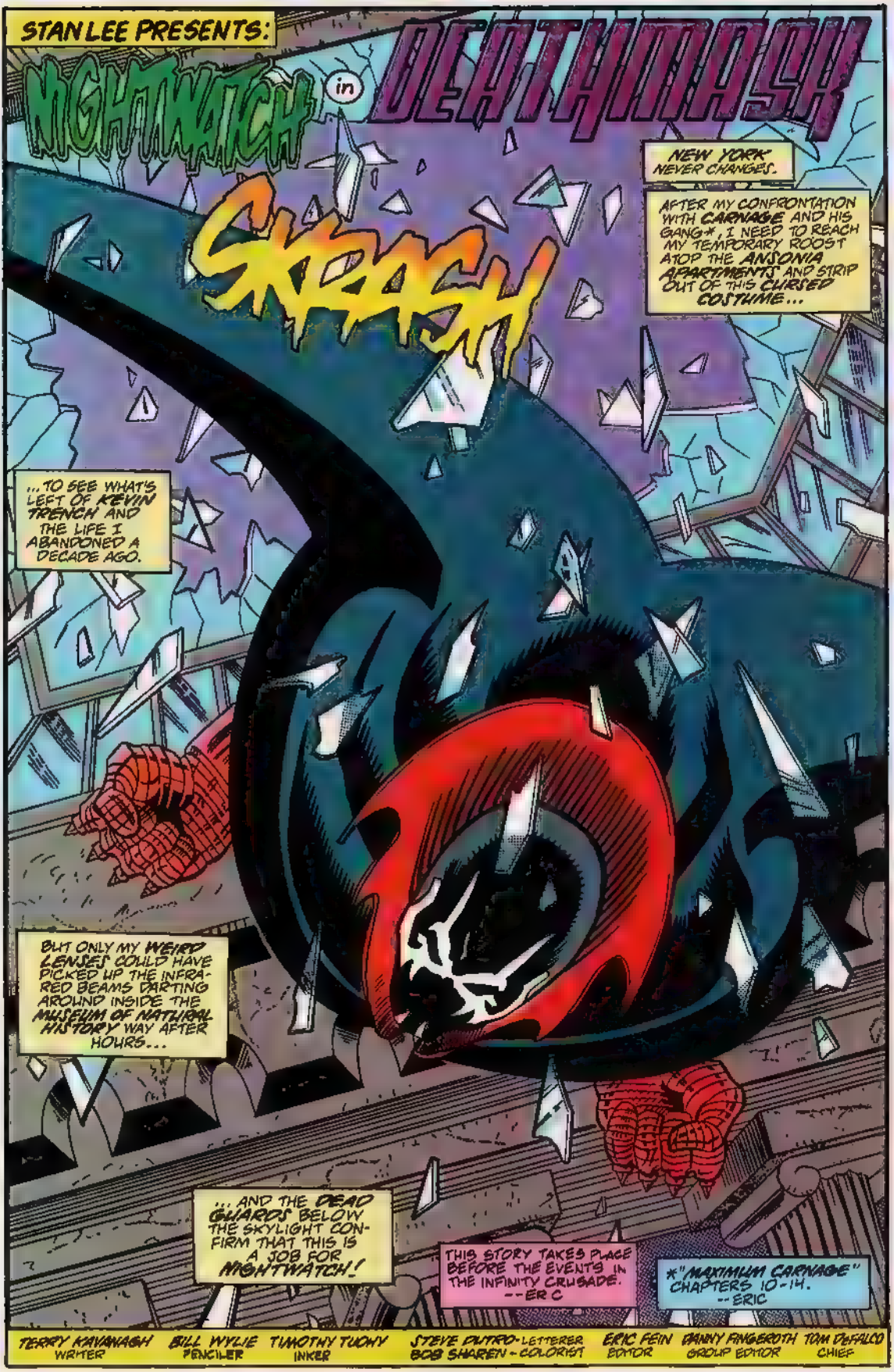

SLSH
I'LL GO TO THE TOP OF THE CATHEDRAL, TRY TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.
I SENSE A TROUBLED SPIRIT...
A PSIONIC-CONCUSSIVE TELEPATH DOES NOT A PRIESTESS MAKE SISTER...
MY MIND-SCAN MERELY REVEALED YOUR LACK OF RESOLVE, SPIDER-MAN.
*INFINITY CRUSADE #2.--ERIC.
AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ASSURED REED RICHARDS THAT THERE WAS NO MENTAL MAN.PULATION GOING ON HERE.*
SPIDER-SENSE SAYS--
--GO!
SKOOM
AND HOW LITTLE YOU HAD TO OFFER OUR CAUSE.
THAT DECISION ISN'T YOURS, BALDY!
THE GODDESS IS UNAVAILABLE FOR THE DURATION OF THE RAPTURE, HERO.

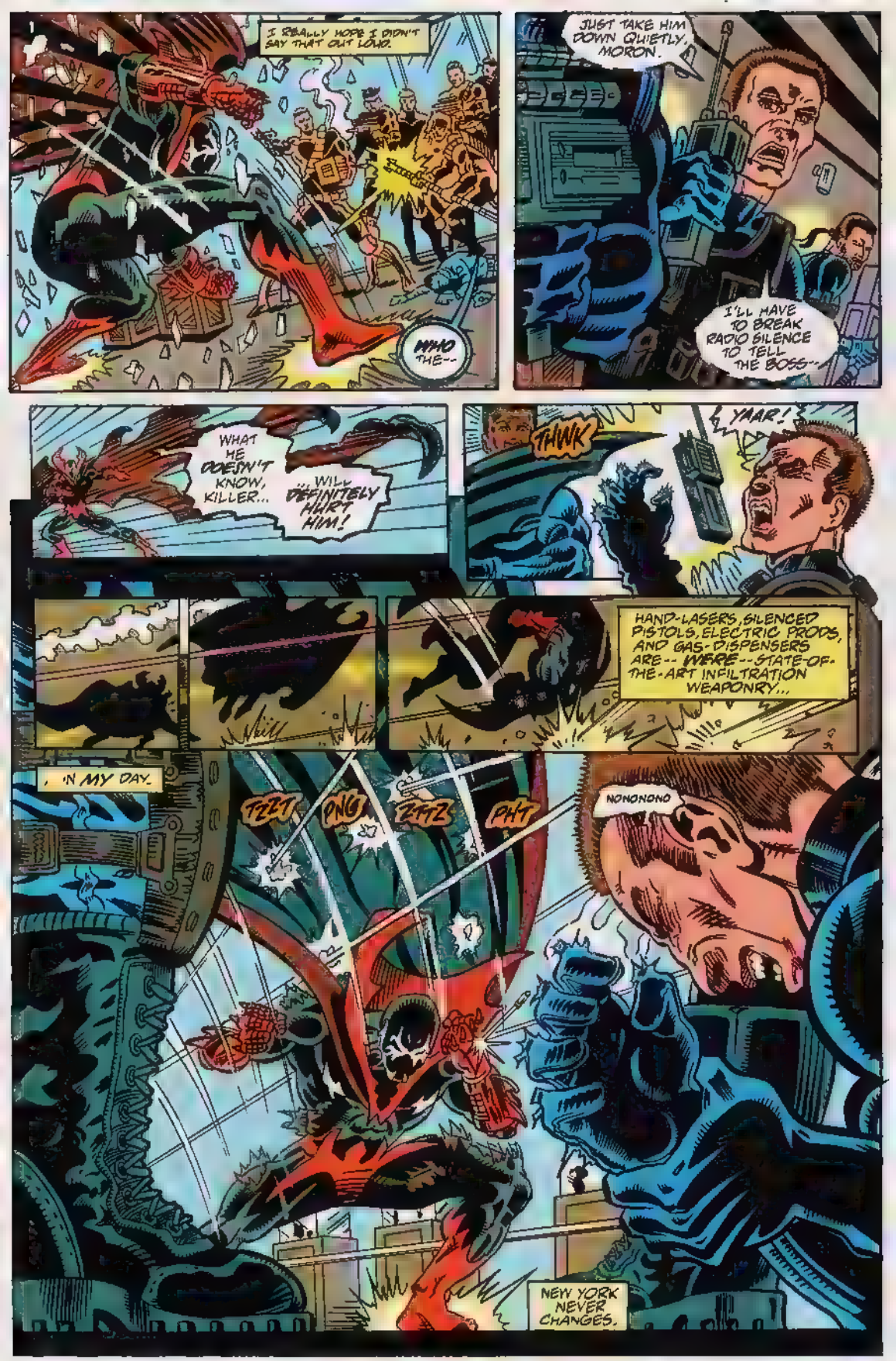

AND MOONDRAGON--MISTRESS OF THE MIND-GEM--HAS BEEN SANCTIONED TO SPEAK FOR HER!
BUT THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK MUST BE EARNED, WARRIOR OF THE LIGHT.
STAY OUT OF MY HEAD, PSI-WITCH!
WE VALUE THE FREE WILL OF THE CHOSEN, SPIDER-MAN...
...AND THOUGHT-CONTROL IS JUST A WASTE OF VALUABLE ENERGY!
SKRK
NOW SHE TELLS ME.


YOU CANNOT AMBUSH ONE WHO CAN READ YOUR MIND--
--AND LITERALLY REACT WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT.
SKRK
SKRK
SKRK
BUT YOU CAN'T PINPOINT A TARGET WITH SPIDER-SPEED AND REFLEXES--THAT RELIES ON INSTINCT...
...AND ACTS BEFORE HE THINKS.
THWAP
WEAK-WILLED INSECT--
SKRAK
--THE MIND'S EYE IS NEVER BLINDED TO THE TRUTH!

YOU MUST PAY FOR THIS DESECRATION OF OUR SACRED CATHEDRAL!
MY INNER VISION'S A LITTLE BLURRY AT THE MOMENT, DRAGON-LADY--
--BUT I INTEND TO CLEAR THINGS UP HERE AND NOW--
THWIP
THOK
--WITH THE BOSS!
THWIP
APPEARS YOU CAN'T TELEPATHICALLY TRACK RANDOM WEB-BALLS--
WHAT THE--
NO!
RRRRR
UUUMMM
--HELP?!
YOUR FAITHLESS DISPLAY HAS DISTURBED THE GODDESS HERSELF!


THWIP
THWIP
WHERE DID THE GROUND GO?
AND WHY DIDN'T MY SPIDER-SENSE WARN ME?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOWER FLOORS?
HOW CAN THESE FLAMES NOT BURN?
IS THIS REALLY THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION?
YOUR TRUE DOUBTS FINALLY SURFACE, SPIDER-MAN--BY THE GRACE OF THE GODDESS AND CONTACT WITH HER OMNIPOTENT SOUL EGG--
--IN YOUR OWN DARK AND TWISTED SOULSCAPE!
WHOA--!
SCIENCE EXPO
PETEY'S HOME, GANG...
... AND EVERYBODY GETS A PIECE!
NEXT ISSUE:
SPIDER-MAN VS. THE CONVERTED HEROES WHILE PETER PARKER CONFRONTS HIMSELF IN "CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE" PART 2!


STAN LEE PRESENTS:
NIGHTWATCH in DEATHMASK
SMASH
NEW YORK NEVER CHANGES.
AFTER MY CONFRONTATION WITH CARNAGE AND HIS GANG*, I NEED TO REACH MY TEMPORARY ROOST ATOP THE ANSONIA APARTMENTS AND STRIP OUT OF THIS CURSED COSTUME...
...TO SEE WHAT'S LEFT OF KEVIN TRENCH AND THE LIFE I ABANDONED A DECADE AGO.
BUT ONLY MY WEIRD LENSES COULD HAVE PICKED UP THE INFRA-RED BEAMS DARTING AROUND INSIDE THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY WAY AFTER HOURS...
...AND THE DEAD GUARDS BELOW THE SKYLIGHT CONFIRM THAT THIS IS A JOB FOR NIGHTWATCH!
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE. --ER C
*"MAXIMUM CARNAGE" CHAPTERS 10-14. --ERIC
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
BILL WYLIE PENCILER
TIMOTHY TUOHY INKER
STEVE DUTRO - LETTERER
BOB SHAREN - COLORIST
ERIC FEIN EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO CHIEF


I REALLY HOPE I DIDN'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD.
SNICK
WHO THE--
JUST TAKE HIM DOWN QUIETLY, MORON.
I'LL HAVE TO BREAK RADIO SILENCE TO TELL THE BOSS--
WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW, KILLER...
...WILL DEFINITELY HURT HIM!
THWK
YAAR!
HAND-LASERS, SILENCED PISTOLS, ELECTRIC PRODS, AND GAS-DISPENSERS ARE-- WERE-- STATE-OF-THE-ART INFILTRATION WEAPONRY...
, IN MY DAY.
TZZT
PNG
ZTTZ
PHT
NONONONO
NEW YORK NEVER CHANGES.

THE STREET VERMIN JUST GET MORE SOPHISTICATED.
KILL HIM-- URG!
KRAK
BOOM
CAN'T HAPPEN, PUNKS...
AT LEAST FOR A WHILE
THUD
THUD
APPARENTLY, EVEN URBAN RATS KNOW ENOUGH TO ABANDON A SINKING SHIP.
AND PEST CONTROL IS FAST BECOMING MY NEW CALLING.
HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE OPERATION COMMAND CENTER AND WARN DANIEL THAT WE'VE BEEN COMPROMISED BEFORE--
WHAT?!
STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS FUTURISTIC MATERIAL SELF-REPAIRS--OR WHY THE RAZOR-EDGED CLOAK RESPONDS TO MY THOUGHTS LIKE A MULTI-FACETED EXTRA LIMB--
THUNP
--BUT I DO KNOW IT SOMEHOW MAKES ME STRONGER AND QUICKER.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Okay! Okay! You can stop with the letters and phone calls now! I haven't been fired — and least not yet! There's a simple reason why you've seen other columns in place of the ol' Soapbox in our mags three out of four weeks a month. It's because we're now publishing about a hundred titles each month, and it seemed like a good idea to have different Bullpen Bulletins Pages every single week, allowing various editors to wax eloquent in this space, so that those of you who buy a whole kaboodle of Marvels each month won't have to read the same yakking on every B.B. page. So, think of the fun you'll have never knowing whose column you'll find whenever you buy a mighty Marvel mag! Of course, you can't win 'em all — sometimes you'll end up with mine!

By the way, here's a hot tip for you. There's a new, paperback series published by Roc Science Fiction (a division of Penguin Publishing Co.) entitled *Stan Lee's Riftworld* on which I co-laborated with the well-known best-selling science-fiction author **Bill McKay**. The first title, *Crossover*, should be going on sale about now. It stars the staff of a comic-book company (sound familiar?) which gets involved in an alien invasion from outside the rift between dimensions! It's wild, scary, and funny!— and it must be a grabber because we've already had inquiries regarding the TV and motion picture rights! And, naturally, it's almost certain to lead to a special Marvel comicbook series in the near future!

So, if you wanna get in at the start of something new and exciting, latch onto a copy of *Riftworld — Crossover*. If it's not at your bookstore yet, pitch a tent in the doorway and wait for it! And, while you're waiting, remember — since mighty Marvel goes to the trouble of publishing over a hundred titles a month, the least you can do is buy as many as possibly. I mean, hey, you don't want us to think you're ungrateful!

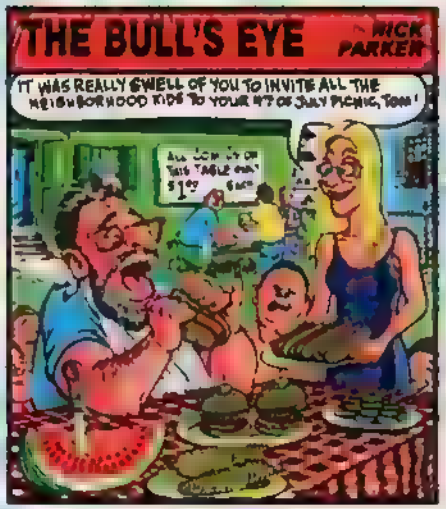
Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Here at Mighty Marvel, we like to celebrate Independence Day the old-fashioned way: with sparklers, firecrackers, and those little pellets that you put a match to and they turn into ashy snakes! Of course, our characters are independent enough to celebrate the fantastic fourth of July in their own style. Here's what our X-Patriots had to say:

John Romita Jr., of X-MEN fame, suggests that Marveloids everywhere spend the holiday weekend "buying extra copies of X-MEN, instead of buying dangerous explosives!"

Explosives were also on the minds of



several of our other artists. CABLE penciler **Art Thibert** suggested that "Cable would probably go ballistic and start a few fireworks of his own!" PUNISHER penciler **Hugh Haynes** said that "the Punisher would probably be watching the rockets' red glare — from his Stinger shoulder harness!"

Even funny characters will have a blast on the fourth. **Mark Evanier** noted that Groo would "probably shoot his foot off," while REN AND STIMPY penciler **Mike Kazaleh** said America's ugliest cat and dog team "would set fire to the White House. That's pretty patriotic." **Evan Dorkin**, the trainer of FIGHT-MAN, said his pugilistic creation "would spend the day fighting."

From throwing punches we move to drinking punch, as several of our heroes have partying on their minds. FANTASTIC FOUR penciler **Paul Ryan** said the FF "would have an open-air barbecue on the roof of their building. The top was blown off during the Infinity War, and that's why it's an open-air barbecue!"

CAGE penciler **Scott Benefiel** said that "Cage would invite all his friends to a 4th of July party; somebody would choke on a hot dog and die, and, just like every other murder, he'd get blamed for it, and spend the rest of the time trying to clear his name!"

FEUD creator **Mike Baron** said that the characters from that series would have a special kind of party. "The Skids would celebrate Independence Day by having a barbecue where they make buffalo wings out of the Kids!"

DEATHLOK scripter **Greg Wright** said his non-mutant cyborg would want to have a big picnic with his family, where they would eat hot dogs and born on the cob, that's what he would want to do, but he can't, because he can't eat food — he has to drink baby formula!"

Tom Raney, artist on the ultra-hot/ new WARLOCK CHRONICLES limited series, said Warlock would most likely sit this holiday out. "Judging by what he usually does," Tom said, "he would probably be sleeping!"

Finally we have AVENGERS WEST COAST penciler **Dave Ross**, who chose to assert his own independence. As Dave put it, "Hey, I'm Canadian! We celebrate Victoria Day on the first (of July)!" When asked why his countrymen have a day honoring Queen Victoria, Dave noted, "It's mostly just an excuse to set off fireworks!"

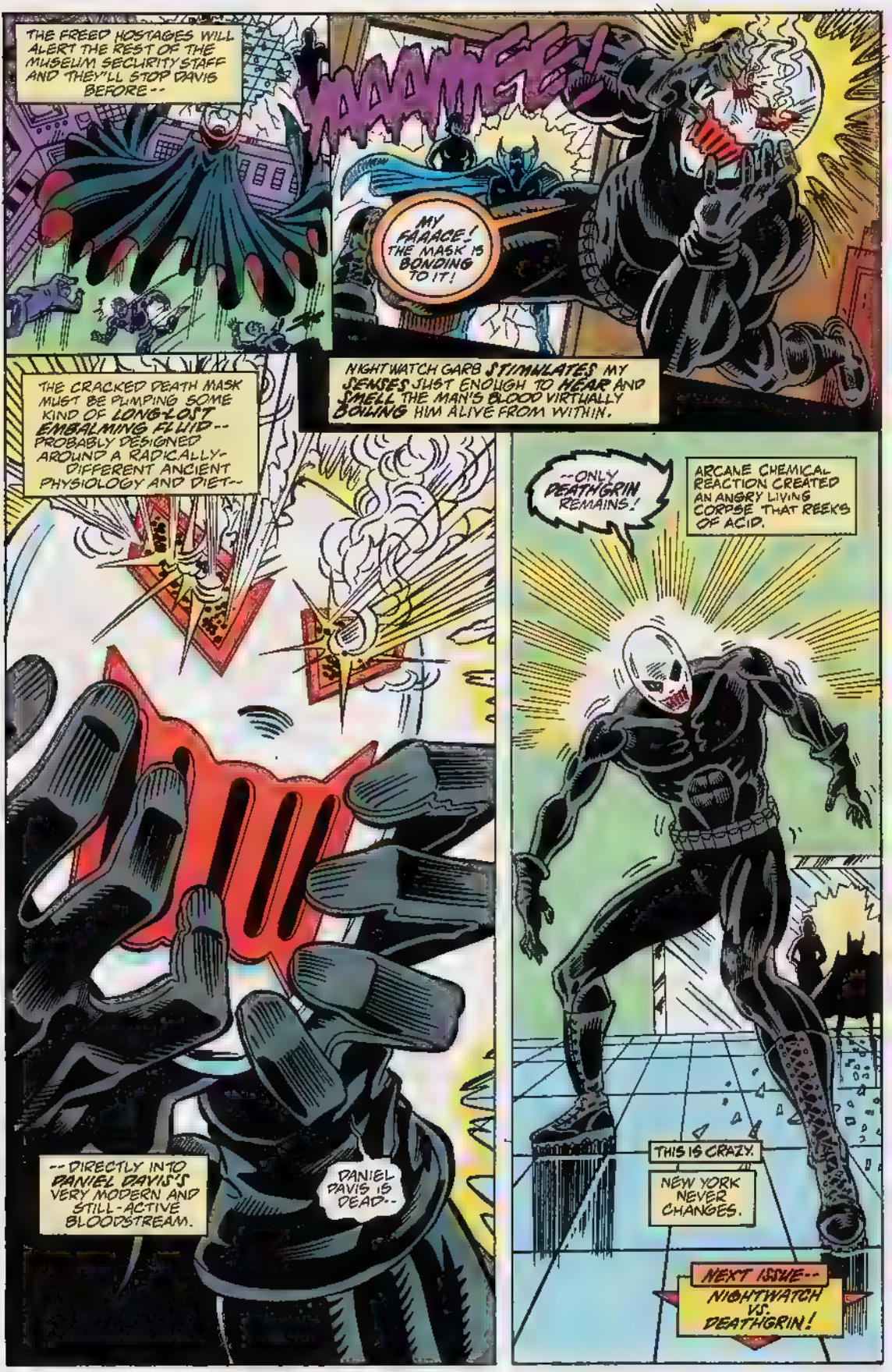
Sounds good to us — through we never need an excuse to set off an explosion of excitement every month in all your favorite Marvel mags!

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **AIRTIGHT GARAGE #3 OF 4:** Close the door! You'll let all the air out!
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION: ONE PLANET AT A TIME #3 OF 3:** Danger! danger! Nomad Squadron is lost in space!
- ☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST #66:** Hangman heads the new Lethal Legion!
- ☐ **CABLE #6:** Prof. X wants Cable to be X-pelled!
- ☐ **CAGE #18:** Cage confronts his dark side!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #418:** The Viper plans murder by television!
- ☐ **CHILDREN OF THE VOYAGER #1 OF 4:** Explore the first title in our new Frontier line!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #330: Silver Sable** battles Daredevil!
- ☐ **DARKHAWK #31:** INFINITY CRUSADE crossover with the X-Men!
- ☐ **DARKMAN #3 OF 6:** It's lights out for Darkman!
- ☐ **DEATH'S HEAD 2 & KILLPOWER: BATTLETIDE # 2 OF 4:** The Hulk pops in!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO 1995 SUMMER SPECIAL:** The history of the Daleks revealed! Once, they were ordinary salt & pepper shakers...
- ☐ **EXCALIBUR ANNUAL #1:** Introducing Khaos!
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #104:** Groo helps a stray dog find a home!
- ☐ **IMMORTALIS #1 OF 4:** Once you've lost your soul, you have nothing left to lose!
- ☐ **KILLPOWER: THE EARLY YEARS #2 OF 4:** ...And here's a picture of his first kill! Awwww
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS #138:** Adamantium action with Wolverine and Cyber!
- ☐ **NAMOR #45:** The ultimate battle for Oracle, inc.!
- ☐ **NIGHTSTALKERS #11:** How the Nightstalkers came to be!
- ☐ **NOMAD #17:** Bucky's mom wants her baby back!
- ☐ **PUNISHER ARMORY #7:** Eliot R. Brown goes to town!
- ☐ **ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER #15:** GR and Stuntmaster battle Zodiac!
- ☐ **RAZORLINE: THE FIRST CUT:** A sneak peak at Clive Barker's new superhero universe!
- ☐ **REN & STIMPY #10:** The boys are damg counselors!
- ☐ **SHADOW RIDERS #4 OF 4:** Diablo links up for adventure!
- ☐ **SHE-HULK #55:** Wyatt Wingfoot is kidnapped!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN 2099 #11:** Will Spidey save his boss from Thanatos?
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN CLASSICS #8:** Spidey's first clash with Dr. Doom!
- ☐ **THOR CORPS #1 OF 4:** It's Thor times four!
- ☐ **THUNDERSTRIKE #4:** Spidey guest-stars and Pandora debuts!
- ☐ **UNCANNY X-MEN #304:** 30th ANNIVERSARY. MAGNETO! HOLOGRAM! BUY IT!
- ☐ **WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2:** INFINITY CRUSADES crossover!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #104:** Whose side is Spidey on in THE INFINITY CRUSADE?
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #82:** Second printing of this 30th anniversary extravaganza!
- ☐ **X-MEN ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE:** 30th anniversary memories with Stan Lee, Chris Claremont, and more!

AND FAR MORE DANGEROUS.
HOW MANY MORE ARE THERE OF YOU?
F-FIVE...
"...COMMANDEERING THE CENTRAL SECURITY STATION HIDDEN RIGHT OFF THE FRONT LOBBY."
SOME OF THE GUARDS REPORTED NOISES FROM THE TARGET WING, DANIEL.
BUT, I ORDERED ALL PERSONNEL TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSTS.
THAT UGLY THING REALLY WORTH ALL THIS, MR. DAVIS?
OUR MORE EXOTIC CLIENTS WILL PAY TOP-DOLLAR FOR ANYTHING EXCAVATED FROM THE OLDEST-KNOWN ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND TO DATE, REYNOLDS.
MY PRIVATE RESEARCH INDICATES THAT THIS RECENTLY UNEARTHED MACEDONIAN DEATH-MASK COULD VERY WELL BE THE MOST VALUABLE PRIZE OF THE NEW EXHIBITION...
...AND OUR EXPEDITION.
SHOULDN'T YOUR MEN BE BACK ALREADY THOUGH, MR. DAVIS, WITH MY--OUR--SHARE OF THE LOOT?
THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL, MR. REYNOLDS...
...THANKS TO YOUR EXTREMELY EFFICIENT SABOTAGE OF THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS THAT SECURED OUR INITIAL ACCESS.
BUT NOW MY FELLOW... HOSTAGES WILL KNOW I BETRAYED THEM--
PHHT
EERGH!
MOOT POINT REALLY, REYNOLDS.
ONLY TIME TO KNOCK ONCE...

...WITH BOTH POWER-GAUNTLETS, THAT IS.
IT'S OVER, MURDERERS!
SKKROOM
WHO?
TOO LATE TO HELP THE JUDAS GUARD
SHIK
SHIK
POOT
NOW?
WHA--UHFF!
BUT I STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE THE OTHERS.
CORNERED.. AND THE BOYS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES...
WHOK
...BUT A GOOD THIEF KNOWS WHEN--AND HOW--TO MAKE AN EXIT!
PROFIT IS ONE THING...
SKEE!


THE FREED HOSTAGES WILL ALERT THE REST OF THE MUSEUM SECURITY STAFF AND THEY'LL STOP DAVIS BEFORE--
AAAAAIEE!
MY FAAACE! THE MASK IS BONDING TO IT!
NIGHTWATCH GARB STIMULATES MY SENSES JUST ENOUGH TO HEAR AND SMELL THE MAN'S BLOOD VIRTUALLY BOILING HIM ALIVE FROM WITHIN.
THE CRACKED DEATH MASK MUST BE PUMPING SOME KIND OF LONG-LOST EMBALMING FLUID-- PROBABLY DESIGNED AROUND A RADICALLY-DIFFERENT ANCIENT PHYSIOLOGY AND DIET--
--DIRECTLY INTO DANIEL DAVIS'S VERY MODERN AND STILL-ACTIVE BLOODSTREAM.
DANIEL DAVIS IS DEAD--
--ONLY DEATHGRIN REMAINS!
ARCANE CHEMICAL REACTION CREATED AN ANGRY LIVING CORPSE THAT REEKS OF ACID.
THIS IS CRAZY.
NEW YORK NEVER CHANGES.
NEXT ISSUE--
NIGHTWATCH VS. DEATHGRIN!

WEB-ZINGERS

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ERIC FEIN
ED TOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for pub ication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Web-Zingers,

I have been collecting WEB OF SPIDER-MAN since issue #35, and I thought it was about time I wrote you guys a letter. Regarding issue #98, I think it was fantastic. I've been thinking about the identity of the Blood Rose. Could it be Alfredo? Maybe not, but it couldn't be J. Jonah Jameson... right? What's the story with this guy Trench? He seems to be a possible guest star with a mysterious past. He has many possibilities. While I'm asking all these questions, what's going on between Betty and Robbie?

Bryan Johnson
19 Keats Avenue
Hartsdale, NY 10530

Well, by now you know the Blood Rose was the *real* Richard Fisk. Alfredo had been masquerading as Richard Fisk to further his own nefarious plans. He is currently referring to himself as *Gauntlet*. As for Kevin Trench, he's got his hands full putting his life back together as Nightwatch.

By the way, did you enjoy the first part of our Nightwatch mini-epic?

Dear WEB,

After reading issue #99, I felt obliged to extend my congratulations to the crew of WEB. This storyline is awesome! It reminds me of the days of the war between the Lobo Brothers and the Kingpin.

"My Enemy's Enemy" is a superb piece of work. The plot is great, as well as the visuals. Now, for a couple questions:

1) Where was the Kingpin during all of this? He showed up over in the "Dead Man's Hand" storyline, and we haven't seen him since. It would be pretty cool if he got into the power struggle.

2) Who, exactly, is this Foreigner person? What is it that he does?

Well, gotta go now. Keep up the good work.

Jeff Walker
9185 W. 73rd Ave.
Arvada, CO 80005

1) We can't reveal too much about the Kingpin's whereabouts just yet... but keep watching the Spidey books and upcoming issues of DAREDEVIL. We don't think the elusive Mr. Fisk will be out of the picture for long!

2) The Foreigner is an international master assassin (and the ex-husband of sometime Spidey ally Silver Sable) with whom Spidey has clashed in the past. Foreigner counts among his major accomplishments the murder of Ned Leeds, the original Hobgoblin!

Dear Web-Zingers,

I just finished reading WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #100, and it was great! Alex Saviuk's artwork was stupendous, especially during the action scenes with the New Enforcers. I can't wait to see more of Nightwatch. Despite all that was right with issue #100, I do have one beef. The Spider-Armor lasted only nine pages! It looks great on Spidey, and the already savvy Spider-Man would be virtually unstoppable. I realize that the hard web-agent the armor was made of was experimental, but maybe Peter Parker could work a little more at E.S.U. to perfect it. I sure hope so. Keep up the great work!

Chris Kiner
4414 Winona Trail
Suffolk, VA 23434

More of Nightwatch, eh? How does a back-up in WEB, starting in this issue, and a 12-issue limited series starting in 1994 sound?

Dear Web-Slingers,

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #100 is definitely one hot pick for Spider-Man comic book lovers. I really loved Spidey's armor. I do hope we see more of it in the future. This armor has got a lot of potential and it would really be a fascinating item in Spidey's fights when facing opponents as super-powerful as the New Enforcers.

Incidentally, how many members do the New Enforcers have? Are there different levels to the group?

Congratulations on a job well done, guys. Hope to see the armored Spider-Man more in the future.

Mel Atendido
57 Lorraine St., Parkway
Village, Quezon City
PHILIPPINES 1106

You were the first to guess that there were "different levels" to the New Enforcers, Mel. Issue #100 made it plain that that group was just the tip of the iceberg!

Dear Web-Zingers,

I can't believe it! You destroyed the Spider-Armor in the same issue in which it was created! Admittedly, the armor could be a hindrance. If damaged, it would slow Spidey down and his speed is one of his major attributes. His ability to cling to walls would also be completely nullified.

But I still say the armor should have stayed at least a little longer, considering the "Maximum Carnage" storyline is coming up! After that, he could perhaps keep it in cold storage until he needs it for some menace or something.

Alvin H. Finkbeiner III
401 McEwan Street
Bay City, MI 48708

Well, Spidey survived "Maximum Carnage" without the armor... but as you, and so many other readers demanded, the Spider-Armor, in one form or another, will be back!

NEXT ISSUE: Spidey vs. Archangel, Sasquatch, Quicksilver, Moon Knight, and the Invisible Woman, as our INFINITY CRUSADE crossover continues in "Crisis of Conscience, part 2: The Soul Gauntlet!" Don't miss it!

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DR. STRANGE
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HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

World Enough, And Time . . .

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WITH THANKS TO ANDREW MARVELL (1621-1678) FOR THE TITLE

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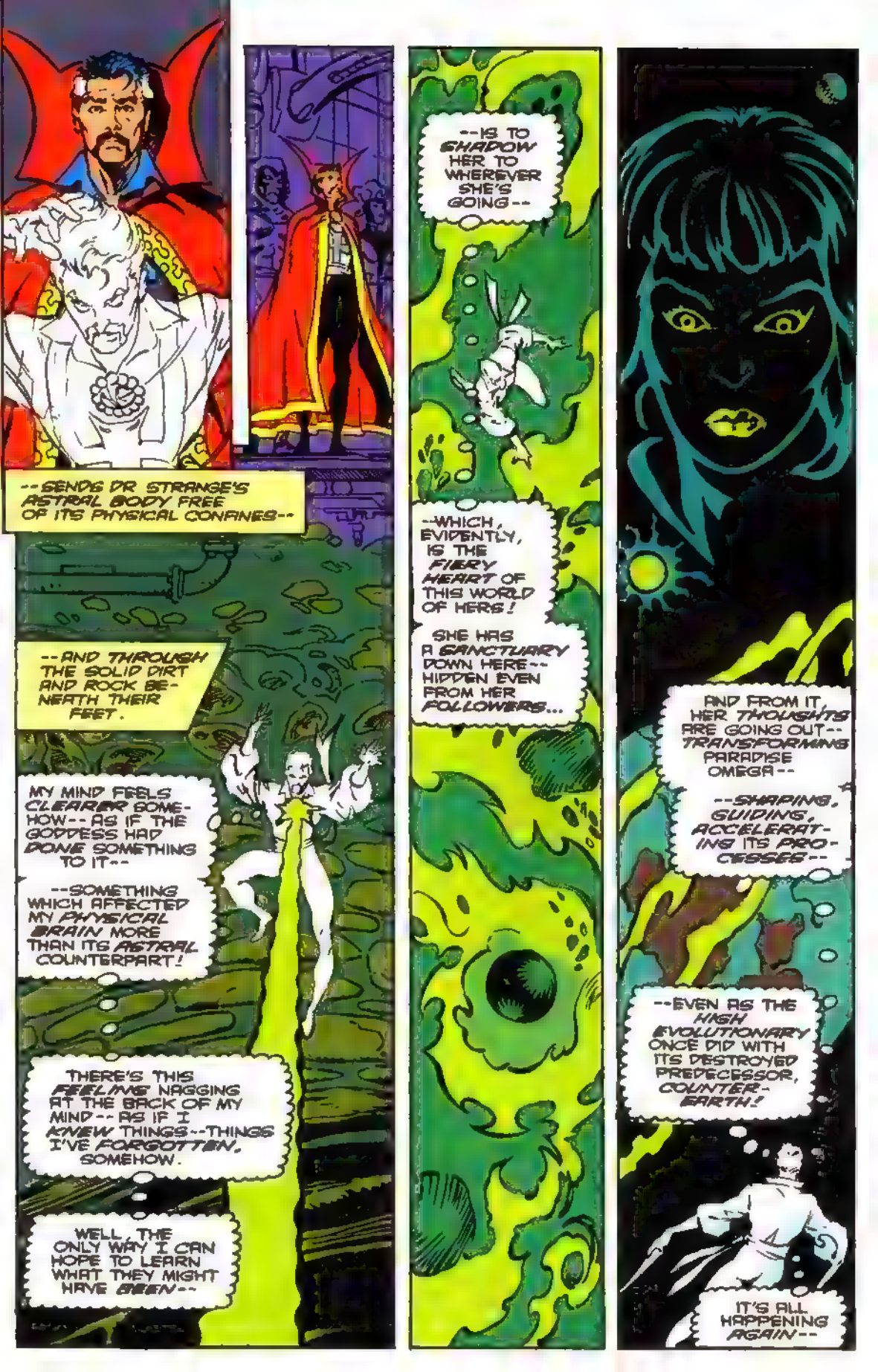
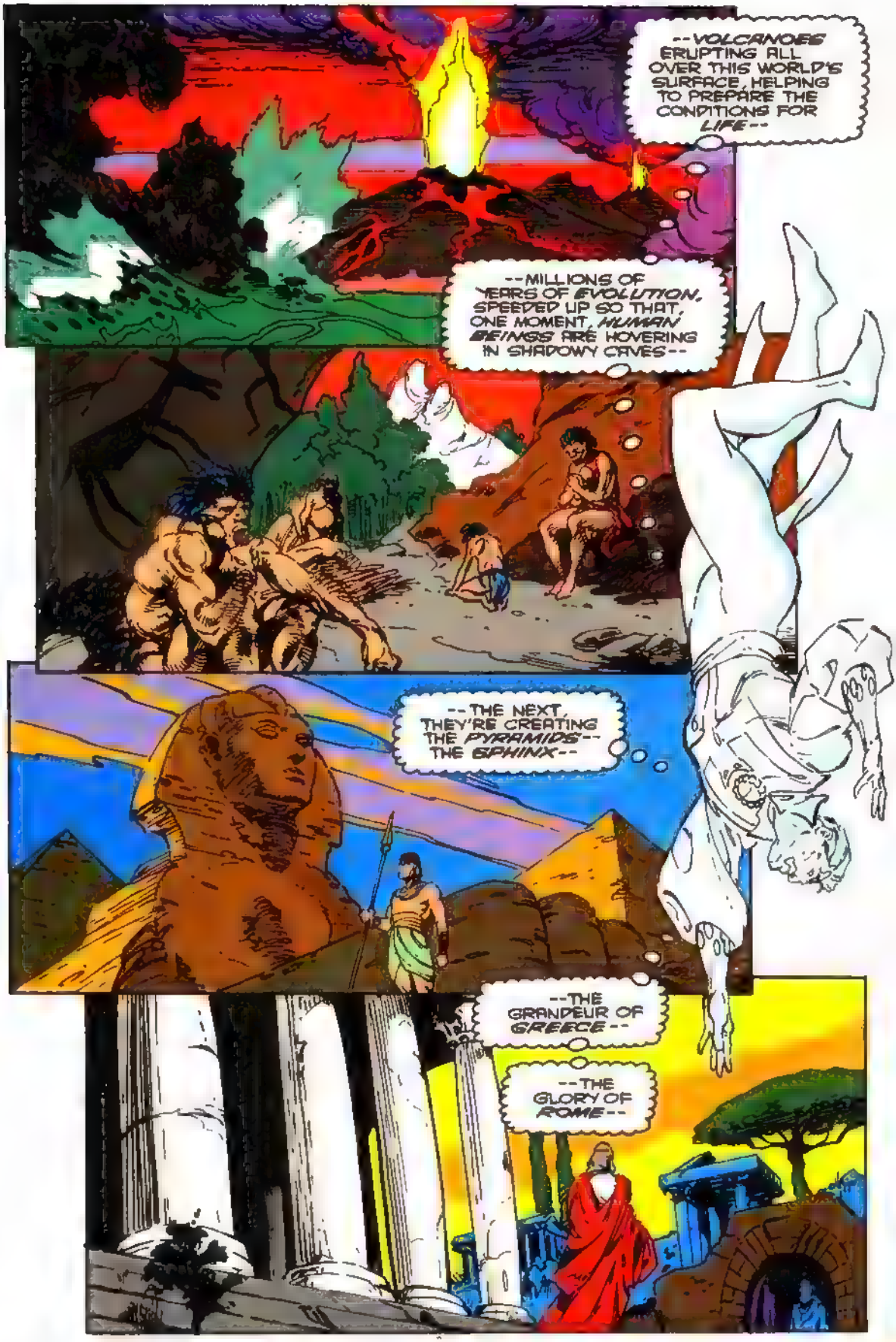
I SHALL REJOIN YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ULTIMATE ENLIGHTENMENT!
PRAY FOR ME, MY FAITHFUL ONES!
PRAY FOR THE UNIVERSE!

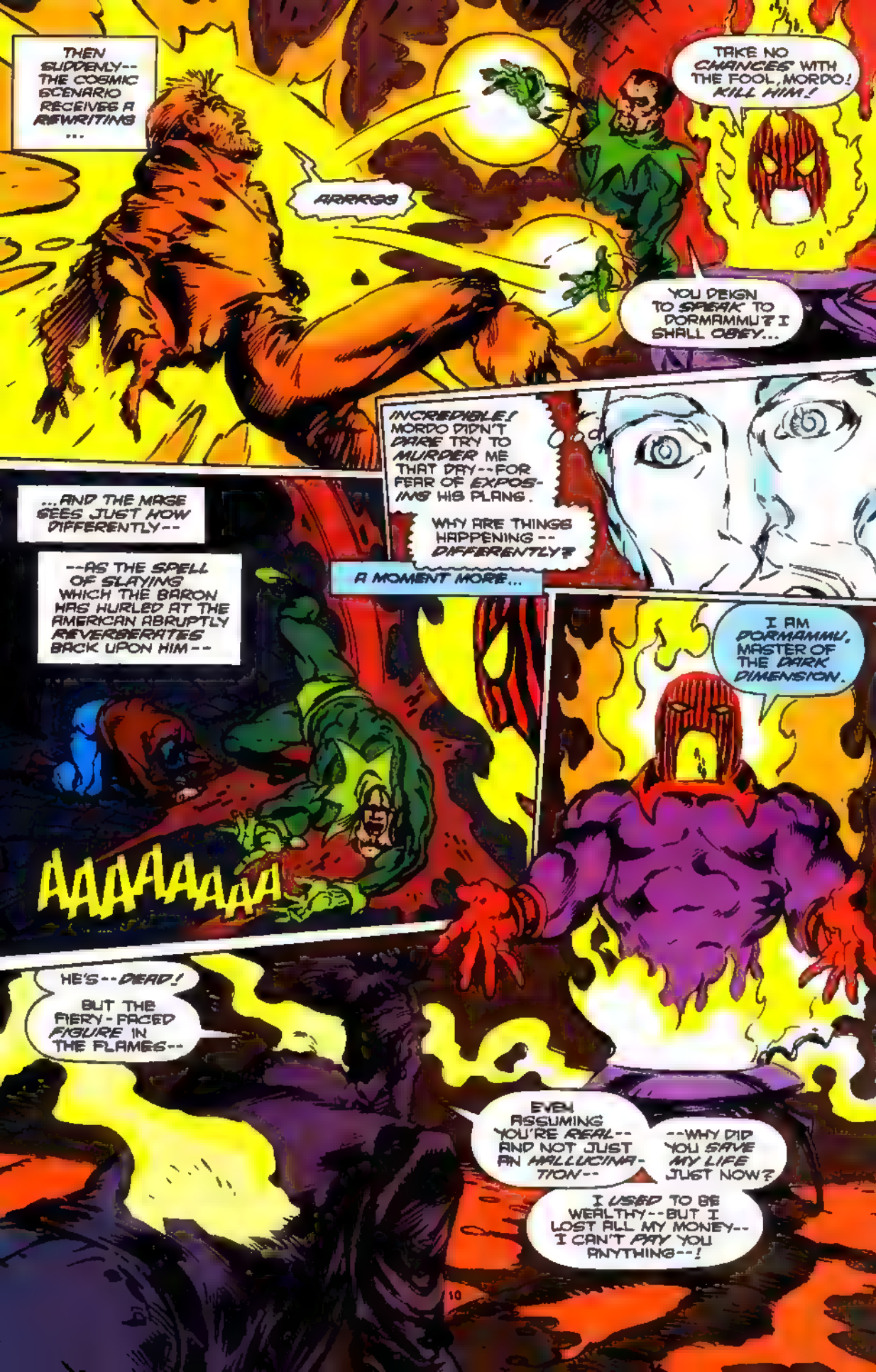
NEXT MOMENT, BOTH THE GODDESS AND HER COSMIC EGG ARE GONE FROM THE CATHEDRAL ON HER NEW PLANET, PARADISE OMEGA...*
AND BE STRONG!
* AS SEEN IN INFINITY CRUSADE #2, ON SALE NOW,-- MIKE
...LEAVING THE CONVERTED AMONG EARTH'S HEROES STARING AFTER HER, STUNNED AND WORDLESS.
YET ONE AMONG THE MYRIAD STALWARTS PRESENT IS NOT ONLY A MYSTIC...
...BUT WAS, TILL RECENTLY, THIS UNIVERSE'S SORCERER SUPREME.
ON A CONSCIOUS LEVEL, STEPHEN STRANGE, LIKE THE OTHERS, IS TOTALLY IN THRALL TO THE GODDESS.
BUT, BECAUSE HE SENSED HER BEFORE SHE CAME TO HIM, HIS UNCONSCIOUS RECALLS HIS DETECTING HER NOW-HIDDEN AURA OF --EVIL?!?..
SOME PIECE OF HIM REMEMBERS HIS ENCOUNTER WITH ETERNITY, IN SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HER AND HER INTENTIONS
BUT WHAT KNOWLEDGE HE GAVE, ETERNITY THEN SUPPRESSED WITHIN THE MAGE'S BRAIN...LEST HE AFFECT THE FUTURE IN WAYS PERILOUS TO THE COSMOS.*
* LAST ISSUE.--MIKE
YET, THAT STILL, SMALL VOICE DEEP WITHIN, WHICH WHISPERS COUNSELS OF DISTRUST OF THE GODDESS, EVEN NOW--


--SENDS DR STRANGE'S ASTRAL BODY FREE OF ITS PHYSICAL CONFINES--
--AND THROUGH THE SOLID DIRT AND ROCK BENEATH THEIR FEET.
MY MIND FEELS CLEARER SOMEHOW-- AS IF THE GODDESS HAD DONE SOMETHING TO IT--
--SOMETHING WHICH AFFECTED MY PHYSICAL BRAIN MORE THAN ITS ASTRAL COUNTERPART!
THERE'S THIS FEELING NAGGING AT THE BACK OF MY MIND-- AS IF I KNEW THINGS--THINGS I'VE FORGOTTEN, SOMEHOW.
WELL, THE ONLY WAY I CAN HOPE TO LEARN WHAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN--
--IS TO SHADOW HER TO WHEREVER SHE'S GOING--
--WHICH, EVIDENTLY, IS THE FIERY HEART OF THIS WORLD OF HERS!
SHE HAS A SANCTUARY DOWN HERE-- HIDDEN EVEN FROM HER FOLLOWERS...
AND FROM IT, HER THOUGHTS ARE GOING OUT-- TRANSFORMING PARADISE OMEGA--
--SHAPING, GUIDING, ACCELERATING ITS PROCESSES--
--EVEN AS THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY ONCE DID WITH ITS DESTROYED PREDECESSOR, COUNTER-EARTH!
IT'S ALL HAPPENING AGAIN--


--VOLCANOES ERUPTING ALL OVER THIS WORLD'S SURFACE, HELPING TO PREPARE THE CONDITIONS FOR LIFE--
--MILLIONS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION, SPEEDED UP SO THAT, ONE MOMENT, HUMAN BEINGS ARE HOVERING IN SHADOWY CAVES--
--THE NEXT, THEY'RE CREATING THE PYRAMIDS-- THE SPHINX--
--THE GRANDEUR OF GREECE--
--THE GLORY OF ROME--

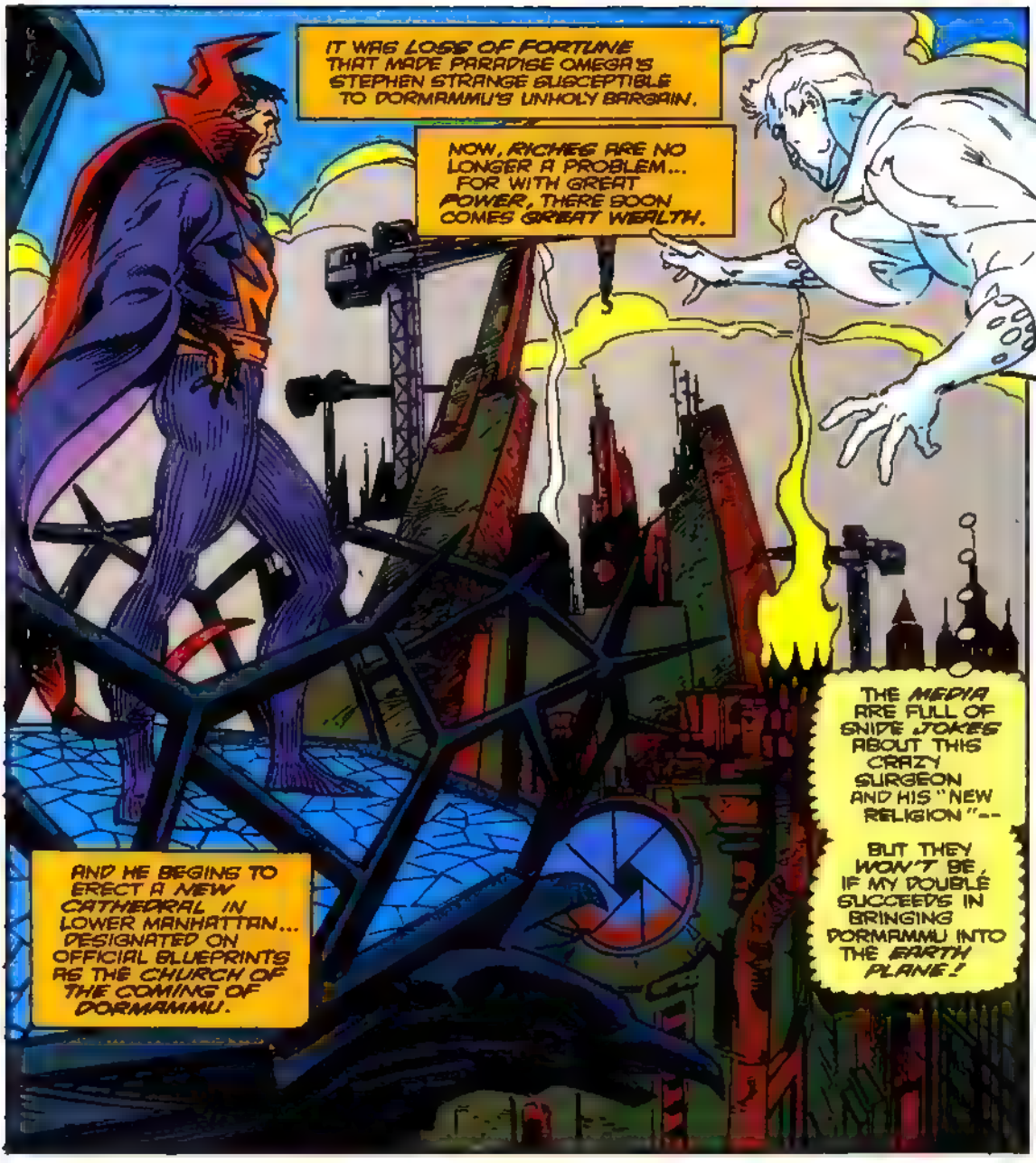
--YES, AND ROME'S SHAME, AS WELL!
NEW CONTINENTS ARE DISCOVERED IN THE BLINKING OF AN EYE--
IN WESTERN EUROPE AND AFRICA, MEN ARE HURLING SPEARS ONE SECOND--
--NEW RELIGIONS BIRTHED BETWEEN HEARTBEATS.
--SHOOTING CANNON AT EACH OTHER THE NEXT--
--AND IN THE THIRD, FIRING ROCKETS AT THE MOON.
BUT-- WAIT!
SUDDENLY-- EVERYTHING IS SLOWING DOWN--
--AND I CAN NO LONGER SEE THE GODDESS--HER SANCTUARY--OR HER BRAVE NEW WORLD--
--EXCEPT THIS PART IN WHICH I NOW FIND MYSELF!
BY HOGGOTH! THIS CAN ONLY BE-- PARADISE OMEGA'S VERSION OF THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS--
AND AHEAD IS THE REMOTE MONASTERY IN WHICH I FIRST MET MY MENTOR, THE ANCIENT ONE!
WHAT WOULD I FIND THERE?
ONLY HAMAR THE HERMIT, GUARDING AN ABANDONED TEMPLE. AS ON EARTH--OR, PERHAPS--?
NO MATTER WHAT THE COST--OR DANGER-- I MUST KNOW!

MOMENTS LATER, STEPHEN STRANGE BEHOLDS--
MYSELF--RELIVING ON PARADISE OMEGA, THE MOMENT--
--WHEN THE HUMAN DERELICT WHO HAD BEEN AN EMINENT SURGEON FIRST STOOD BEFORE--THE ANCIENT ONE!
THEN YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE MAGIC HEALING POWER! I NEED YOU! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME!
BE PATIENT, MAN OF THE WESTERN WORLD. I HEAL NONE SAVE THOSE WHO DESERVE IT.
THE POWER OF MY MAGIC MUST NEVER BE WASTED ON THE UNDESERVING. FIRST, YOU MUST PROVE YOU ARE WORTHY.
THE WORDS--THE ACTIONS--ALL THE SAME!
STRANGE'S ASTRAL FORM KNOWS WHAT IS COMING--BUT CANNOT INFLUENCE IT...
AS YOU MUST REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE SNOW THAWS, MY PUPIL, MORDO, WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR CHAMBER.
STEPHEN DOESN'T LIKE HIS LOOKS ANYMORE NOW THAN HE DID THE FIRST TIME.
SOON, HE ONCE MORE SEES HIS MENTOR ASSAULTED BY THE VAPORS OF VALTORR...
...AND LEARNS BARON MORDO WAS BEHIND IT.
DORMAMMU--ACCEPT MY INCENSE OFFERING!
LET THE FORCE OF YOUR POWER DESCEND UPON MY ENEMY!
LET HIM FEEL YOUR FATAL TOUCH!
I BESEECH YOU, DORMAMMU--
--DO NOT FAIL ME!
AH! THE PRYING STRANGE HAS FOUND ME...
NOW HE'LL PUT A MAGICAL CLAMP AROUND MY MOUTH--SO I CAN'T TELL THE ANCIENT ONE--!

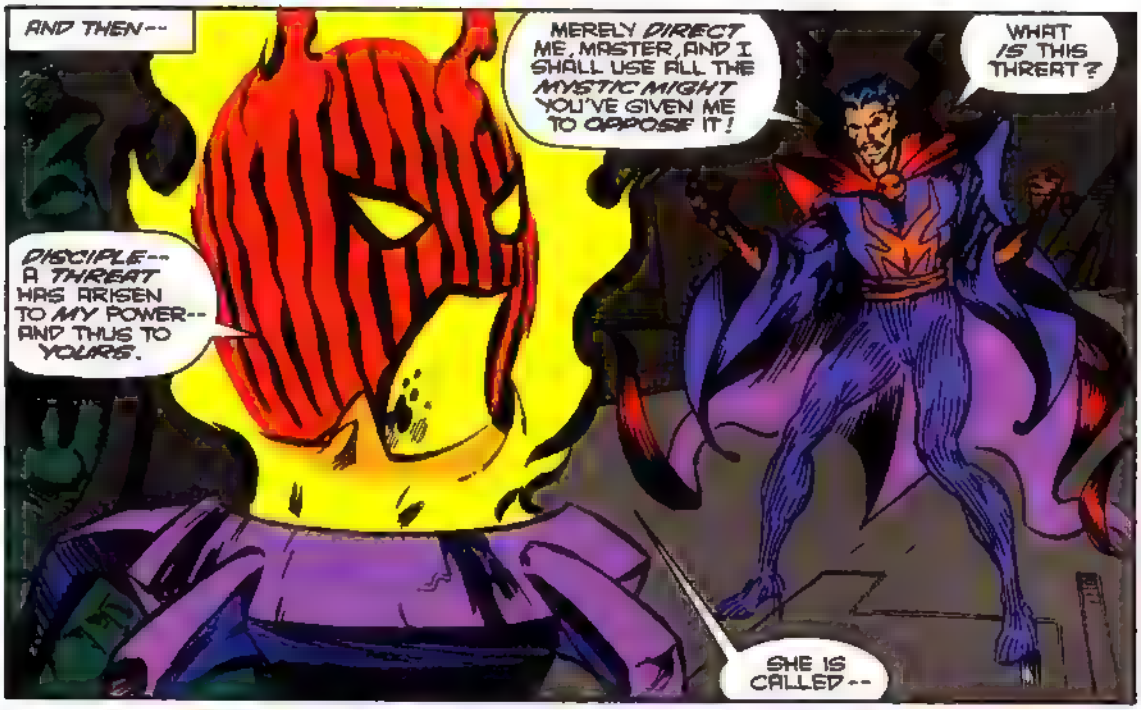

THEN SUDDENLY--THE COSMIC SCENARIO RECEIVES A REWRITING ...
ARRRGG
TAKE NO CHANCES WITH THE FOOL, MORDO! KILL HIM!
YOU DEIGN TO SPEAK TO DORMAMMU? I SHALL OBEY...
INCREDIBLE! MORDO DIDN'T DARE TRY TO MURDER ME THAT DAY--FOR FEAR OF EXPOSING HIS PLANS.
WHY ARE THINGS HAPPENING--DIFFERENTLY?
A MOMENT MORE...
...AND THE MAGE SEES JUST HOW DIFFERENTLY--
--AS THE SPELL OF SLAYING WHICH THE BARON HAS HURLED AT THE AMERICAN ABRUPTLY REVERBERATES BACK UPON HIM--
AAAAAAAAA
I AM DORMAMMU, MASTER OF THE DARK DIMENSION.
HE'S--DEAD!
BUT THE FIERY-FACED FIGURE IN THE FLAMES--
EVEN ASSUMING YOU'RE REAL--AND NOT JUST AN HALLUCINATION--
--WHY DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE JUST NOW?
I USED TO BE WEALTHY--BUT I LOST ALL MY MONEY--I CAN'T PAY YOU ANYTHING--!

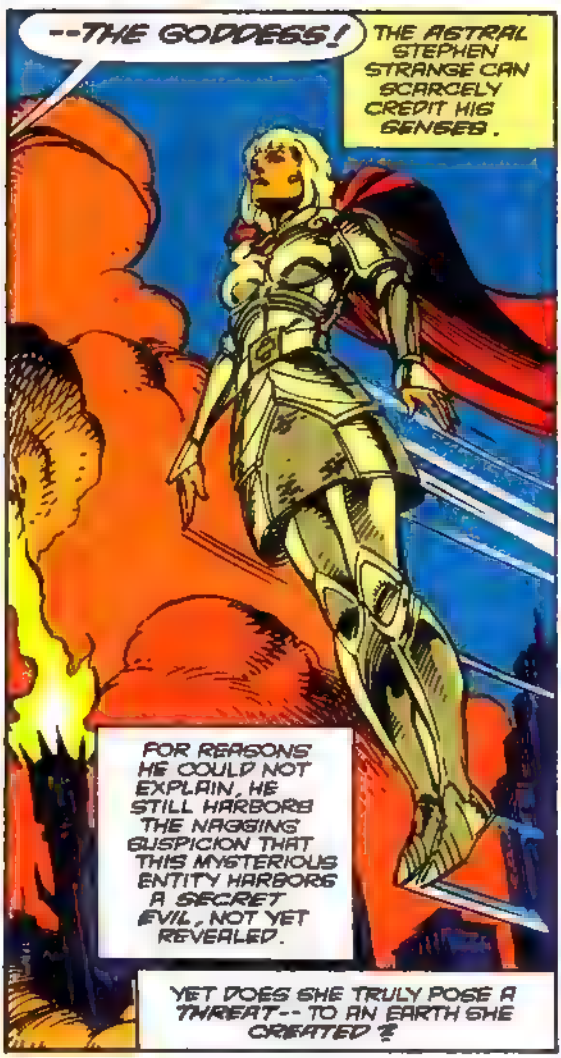
GOLD IS DROSS--WORTHLESS TO SUCH AS DORMAMMU, MORTAL.
I PERCEIVED POSSIBILITIES IN YOU--FAR BEYOND THOSE I SAW IN THE LATE MORDO.
IN EXCHANGE FOR POWER BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS--
--WILL YOU BE MY DISCIPLE?
ARE THE ROCKEFELLERS REPUBLICANS?
THIS IS MADNESS! BECAUSE I--HE--HASN'T YET COME UNDER THE ANCIENT ONE'S SWAY, HE'S VULNERABLE TO THAT FIEND'S OFFER.
DR. STRANGE IS BECOMING--THE DISCIPLE OF DORMAMMU!
I HAVE BATHED YOU IN RAW MYSTICAL POWER--MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOUR PURPOSES--
--EVEN GARBED YOU PROPERLY FOR YOUR TASK
NOW--GO, DISCIPLE!
YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!
YES...
YES... I DO...!

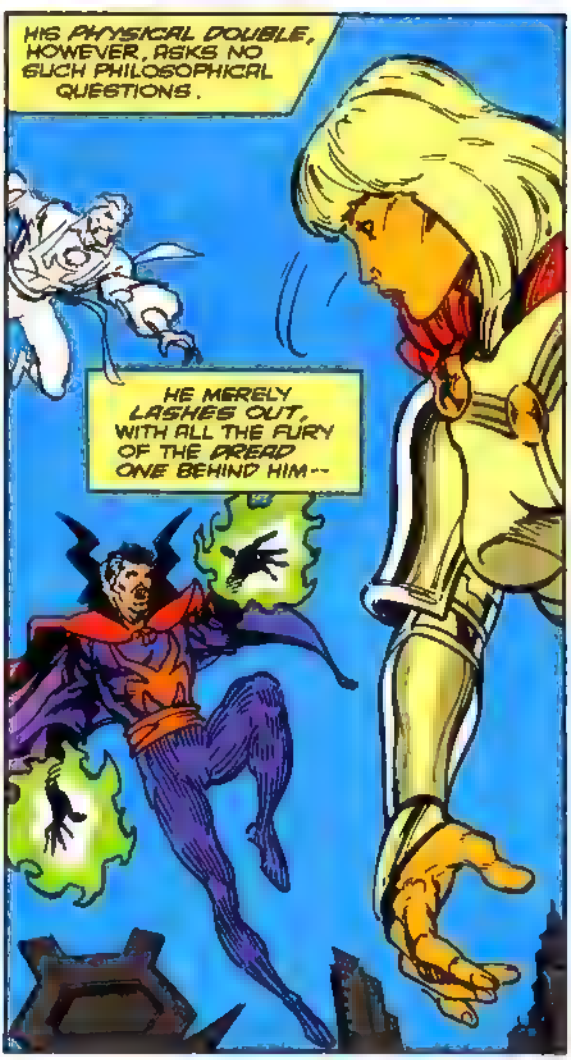
AN ASTRAL SHADOW WATCHES HEARTSICK AS ITS COUNTERPART APPROACHES THE ANCIENT ONE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WAIT! I SENSE ANOTHER PRESENCE--LURKING--HIDDEN--!
IT IS THE ESSENCE OF DORMAMMU HE DETECTS, MYSTICALLY MASKED FROM HIM...
BUT HE HAS DIVINED IT TOO LATE TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM THE DREAD ONE'S ASSAULT, FILTERED THROUGH HIS HUMAN VESSEL...
ARRRRR
AND THE ANCIENT ONE DIES AGAIN, BEFORE THE EYES OF TWO STEPHEN STRANGES!
NOR DOES DORMAMMU STOP THERE.
IN WHAT SEEMS BUT MOMENTS, THE NEW MAGE EXECUTES ALL OTHER MAJOR MYSTICS ON THE PLANET...
AGATHA HARKNESS...THE SCARLET WITCH... DR. ANTHONY DRUID...TALISMAN AND HER FATHER, SHAMAN...
I SCORN THE ANCIENT ONE'S TITLE OF SORCERER SUPREME!
I SHALL BE--EARTH'S SORCERER SINISTER!
THE WATCHING WRAITH SENSES THE TOTAL CORRUPTION WHICH DORMAMMU CAN INSTILL INTO THE HEART OF ONE WHO GIVES HIM BUT AN INSTANT'S OPENING...AND HE IS SORELY TORMENTED.
FOR COULD NOT HE HIMSELF HAVE BECOME A SIMILAR INSTRUMENT OF EVIL, WITH BUT A DIFFERENT ROLL OF THE DICE OF FATE?

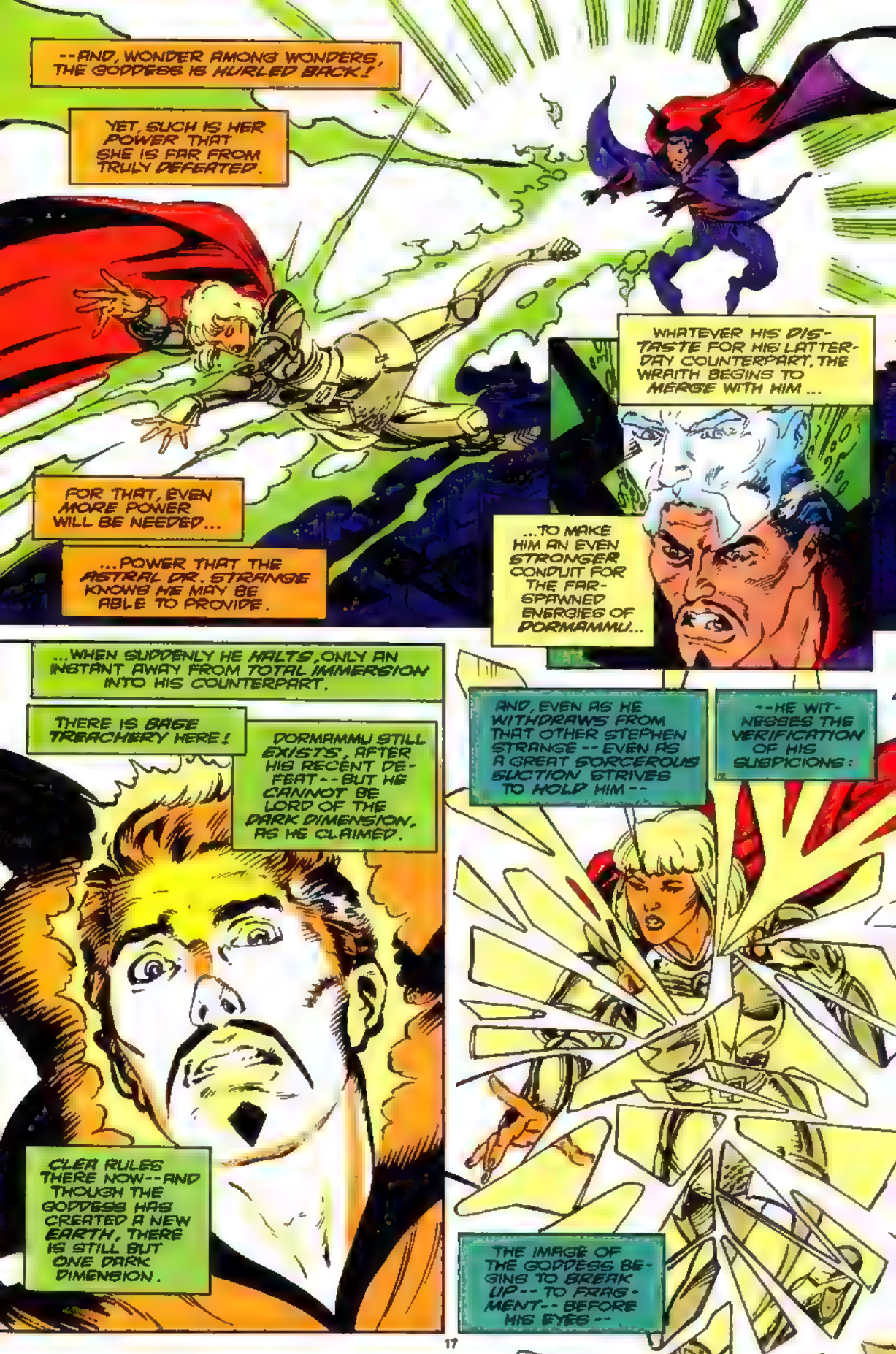

IT WAS LOSS OF FORTUNE THAT MADE PARADISE OMEGA'S STEPHEN STRANGE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DORMAMMU'S UNHOLY BARGAIN.
NOW, RICHES ARE NO LONGER A PROBLEM... FOR WITH GREAT POWER, THERE SOON COMES GREAT WEALTH.
AND HE BEGINS TO ERECT A NEW CATHEDRAL IN LOWER MANHATTAN... DESIGNATED ON OFFICIAL BLUEPRINTS AS THE CHURCH OF THE COMING OF DORMAMMU.
THE MEDIA ARE FULL OF SNIDE JOKES ABOUT THIS CRAZY SURGEON AND HIS "NEW RELIGION"--
BUT THEY WON'T BE, IF MY DOUBLE SUCCEEDS IN BRINGING DORMAMMU INTO THE EARTH PLANE!

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY I COULD STOP HIM--BEFORE HE COMMITS THE ULTIMATE MISTAKE...!
ODD--I FEEL AS IF SOMEONE WERE OBSERVING MY EVERY MOVE--
--SOMEONE BESIDES THE MASTER, DORMAMMU!
BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS ...!

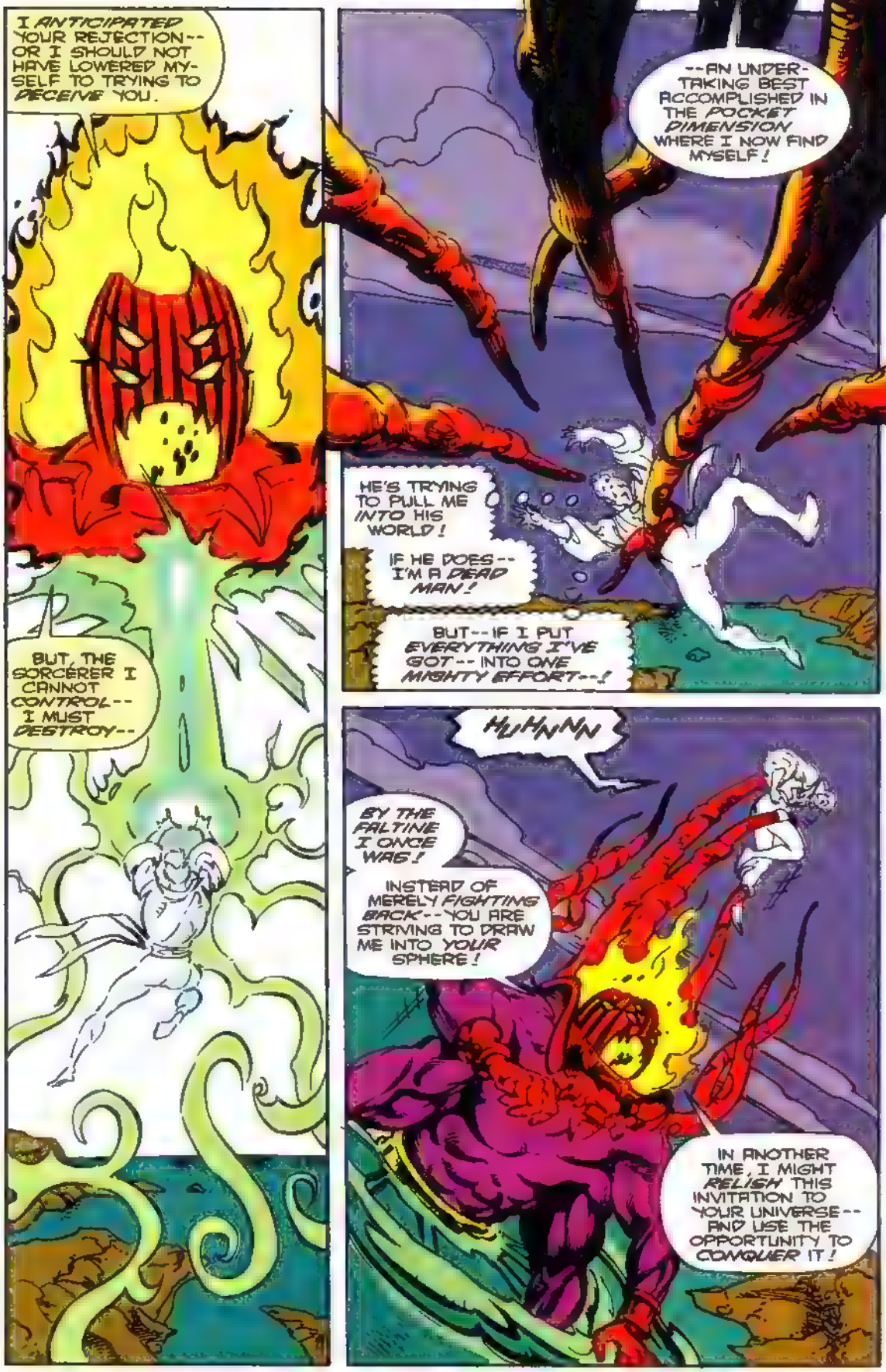

AND THEN--
MERELY DIRECT ME, MASTER, AND I SHALL USE ALL THE MYSTIC MIGHT YOU'VE GIVEN ME TO OPPOSE IT!
WHAT IS THIS THREAT?
DISCIPLE-- A THREAT HAS ARISEN TO MY POWER-- AND THUS TO YOURS.
SHE IS CALLED--

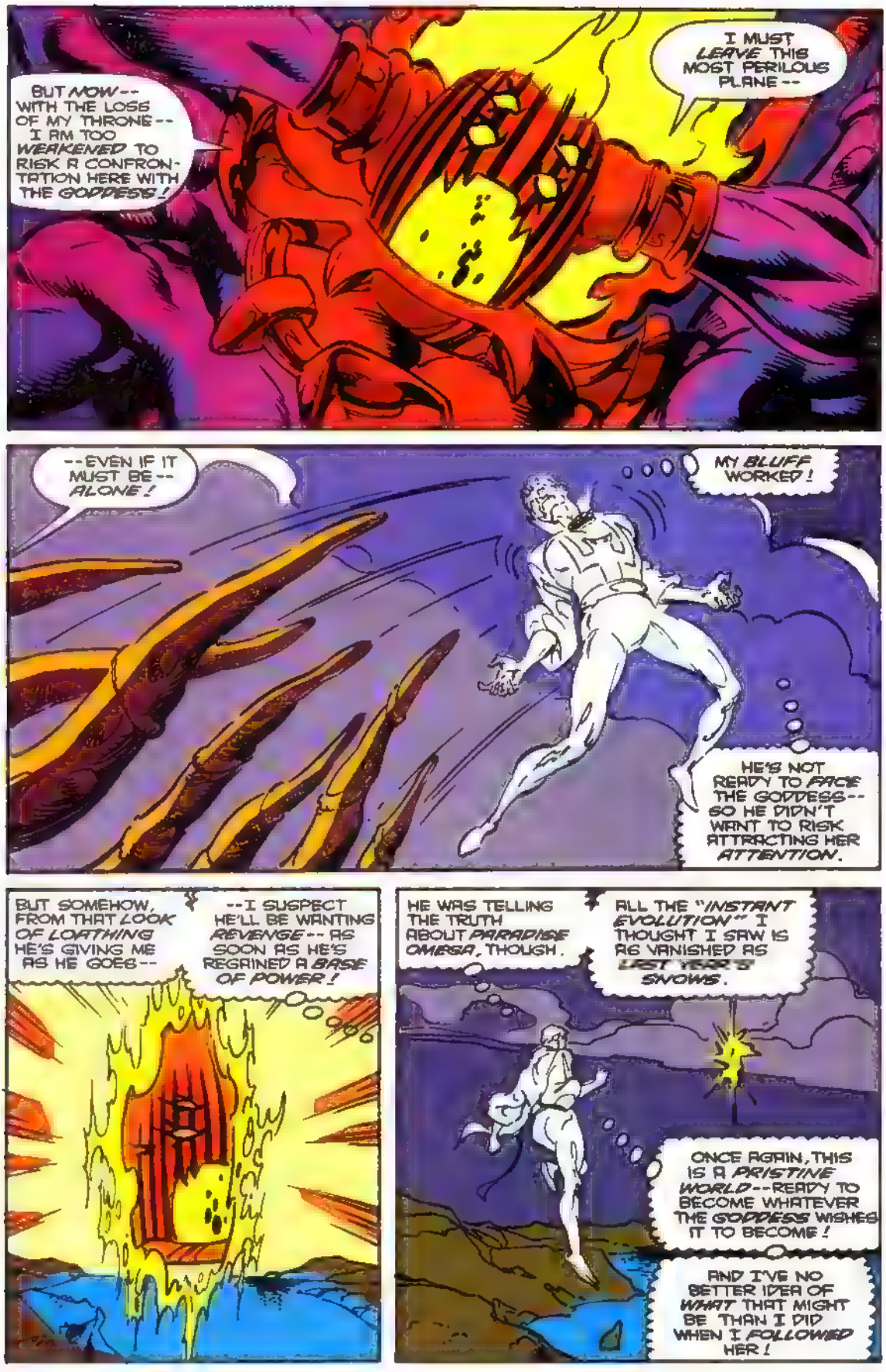

--THE GODDESS!
THE ASTRAL STEPHEN STRANGE CAN SCARCELY CREDIT HIS SENSES.
FOR REASONS HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN, HE STILL HARBORS THE NAGGING SUSPICION THAT THIS MYSTERIOUS ENTITY HARBORS A SECRET EVIL, NOT YET REVEALED.
YET DOES SHE TRULY POSE A THREAT-- TO AN EARTH SHE CREATED?


HIS PHYSICAL DOUBLE, HOWEVER, ASKS NO SUCH PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS.
HE MERELY LASHES OUT, WITH ALL THE FURY OF THE DREAD ONE BEHIND HIM--


--AND, WONDER AMONG WONDERS, THE GODDESS IS HURLED BACK!
YET, SUCH IS HER POWER THAT SHE IS FAR FROM TRULY DEFEATED.
FOR THAT, EVEN MORE POWER WILL BE NEEDED...
...POWER THAT THE ASTRAL DR. STRANGE KNOWS ME MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.
WHATEVER HIS DISTASTE FOR HIS LATTER-DAY COUNTERPART, THE WRAITH BEGINS TO MERGE WITH HIM...
...TO MAKE HIM AN EVEN STRONGER CONDUIT FOR THE FAR-SPAWNED ENERGIES OF DORMAMMU...
...WHEN SUDDENLY HE HALTS, ONLY AN INSTANT AWAY FROM TOTAL IMMERSION INTO HIS COUNTERPART.
THERE IS BASE TREACHERY HERE!
DORMAMMU STILL EXISTS, AFTER HIS RECENT DEFEAT--BUT HE CANNOT BE LORD OF THE DARK DIMENSION, AS HE CLAIMED.
CLEA RULES THERE NOW--AND THOUGH THE GODDESS HAS CREATED A NEW EARTH, THERE IS STILL BUT ONE DARK DIMENSION.
AND, EVEN AS HE WITHDRAWS FROM THAT OTHER STEPHEN STRANGE--EVEN AS A GREAT SORCEROUS SUCTION STRIVES TO HOLD HIM--
--HE WITNESSES THE VERIFICATION OF HIS SUSPICIONS:
THE IMAGE OF THE GODDESS BEGINS TO BREAK UP--TO FRAGMENT--BEFORE HIS EYES--

--TO REVEAL THE TRUTH BEHIND IT.
DORMAMMU!
THEN YOU SENSED MY PRESENCE--AND THIS WAS ALL SOME MAMMOTH ILLUSION!
AYE! LOOK AROUND YOU! SEE A BOGUS DR. STRANGE MELT LIKE A WAX IMAGE--AND THE ACCELERATED EVOLUTION YOU BEHELD, FADE LIKE MORNING DEW!
YOU KNEW OF COUNTER-EARTH'S CREATION--SO I CAUSED YOU TO "SEE" PARADISE OMEGA FOLLOW THAT SELF-SAME PATTERN.
I WILL ADMIT IT! I NEEDED--I NEED YOUR HELP!
THOUGH THE GODDESS IS NOT AT PRESENT A DIRECT THREAT TO THE DARK DIMENSION I MEAN TO RE-CONQUER--I FEAR SHE SOON SHALL BE.
BUT I NEEDED SOMEONE ON YOUR ASTRAL PLANE THROUGH WHICH TO FUNNEL MY POWERS TO COMBAT HER.
HENCE MY DECEPTION--TO OPEN YOU TO MY POWER--TO MAKE YOU MY CONDUIT FOR A BATTLE WITH THE GODDESS!
EVEN NOW--SURELY IT MUST BE CLEAR TO YOU THAT WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE!
BECOME MY HUMAN AGENT--MY DISCIPLE--AND TOGETHER WE SHALL SAVE YOUR COSMOS FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE GODDESS!
NEVER!
I'LL NOT TRADE THE UNKNOWN EVIL OF THE GODDESS--FOR THE KNOWN EVIL OF DORMAMMU!
BUT, IF THIS DECEIVER OF SOULS FEARS THE GODDESS'S PLANS, COULD I HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN ABOUT HER INTENTIONS?


I ANTICIPATED YOUR REJECTION--OR I SHOULD NOT HAVE LOWERED MYSELF TO TRYING TO DECEIVE YOU.
--AN UNDERTAKING BEST ACCOMPLISHED IN THE POCKET DIMENSION WHERE I NOW FIND MYSELF!
HE'S TRYING TO PULL ME INTO HIS WORLD!
IF HE DOES--I'M A DEAD MAN!
BUT--IF I PUT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT--INTO ONE MIGHTY EFFORT--!
BUT, THE SORCERER I CANNOT CONTROL--I MUST DESTROY--
HUHNNN
BY THE FALTINE I ONCE WAS!
INSTEAD OF MERELY FIGHTING BACK--YOU ARE STRIVING TO DRAW ME INTO YOUR SPHERE!
IN ANOTHER TIME, I MIGHT RELISH THIS INVITATION TO YOUR UNIVERSE--AND USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONQUER IT!


I MUST LEAVE THIS MOST PERILOUS PLANE --
BUT NOW -- WITH THE LOSS OF MY THRONE -- I AM TOO WEAKENED TO RISK A CONFRONTATION HERE WITH THE GODDESS!
--EVEN IF IT MUST BE -- ALONE!
MY BLUFF WORKED!
HE'S NOT READY TO FACE THE GODDESS -- SO HE DIDN'T WANT TO RISK ATTRACTING HER ATTENTION.
BUT SOMEHOW, FROM THAT LOOK OF LOATHING HE'S GIVING ME AS HE GOES --
--I SUSPECT HE'LL BE WANTING REVENGE -- AS SOON AS HE'S REGAINED A BASE OF POWER!
HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT PARADISE OMEGA, THOUGH.
ALL THE "INSTANT EVOLUTION" I THOUGHT I SAW IS AS VANISHED AS LAST YEAR'S SNOWS.
ONCE AGAIN, THIS IS A PRISTINE WORLD -- READY TO BECOME WHATEVER THE GODDESS WISHES IT TO BECOME!
AND I'VE NO BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THAT MIGHT BE THAN I DID WHEN I FOLLOWED HER!

NOR CAN I DETECT ANY TRACE OF HER HERE, NOW.
I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN ABOVE, BEFORE THE GODDESS--OR EVEN MOON-DRAGON--REALIZES THAT ALL I LEFT THERE WAS AN EMPTY SHELL.
WHEN I RE-ENTER MY BODY--THE SPELL THE GODDESS PUT US ALL UNDER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE ME FORGET WHAT LITTLE I'VE LEARNED.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO PRAY THAT I--AND EARTH'S OTHER HEROES--CAN STOP HER, IF AND WHEN SHE PROVES HERSELF A MENACE.
STILL, IF ONLY I COULD MANAGE TO REMEMBER JUST A PART OF--
--A PART OF--
--WHAT?
MY MIND--IT MUST HAVE BEEN WANDERING.
I MUST CLEANSE MYSELF OF THIS TENDENCY--IF I'M TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE GODDESS IN HER HOLY WORK.
AFTER ALL--
--THEY ALSO SERVE, WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT...!
NEXT: MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH--
THE VAMPIRE STRIKES BACK!

SWORD AND STAFF
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESIST! CENTAURION HAS NO PATIENCE WITH WEAKLINGS!
LAST ISSUE, KYLLIAN WAS ON HIS WAY TO DEAL WITH HIS GANG BEFORE THEY COULD MOUNT A SEARCH FOR HIM!
ONLY A DIFFERENT SORT OF HUNTER HAS TRACKED HIM DOWN!
GEOF ISHERWOOD STORY + ART
DIANA ALBERS LETTERING
GEORGE ROUSSOS COLORING
MIKE ROCKWITZ EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO ED IN CHIEF
THIS GUY CAN'T BE FOR REAL! MAYBE HE'S ONE OF DR. STRANGE'S OLD ENEMIES--
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!

HOLD STILL! IT IS NOT YOU I TRULY SEEK, BUT THOSE HIDDEN INSIDE!
HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE GODS! GOT TO--
SKRAKKK!
MY TASK IS COMPLETE! MISTRESS BELLONA'S IMPATIENCE CAN NOW BE APPEASED!

=UNGH= THAT BLAST SHOULD HAVE FINISHED ME OFF! THE CELTIC TRIO MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW ABOUT!
I'M NOT LETTING THAT OVERGROWN CHESS PIECE OFF THAT EASILY-- URGHH!
I'VE ACTIVATED THE STONE SYMBOL!
BY ZEUS'S BEARD! THE ROAD CRUMBLES BEFORE ME!
KRRUNNK!
DEVOURS YOU IS MORE LIKE IT!

THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS!
CAN'T MAINTAIN BALANCE--
I CAN USE THAT CRACKED HYDRANT TO FINISH HIM OFF!
PSSSSSHH
NEVER!
HAD ENOUGH YET? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

THIS TIME I SHALL NOT RELENT IN MY ATTACK!
SKZZZAK!
THE VOICES TELL ME--RAISE THE STAFF! IS IT REFLEX--OR THE STAFF?
HEY! IT'S ABSORBING THE BOLT!
HERE'S A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!
KZAKKK!
WOW! IT'S WORKING!
THIS OLD STICK AIN'T HALF--BAD! MAYBE THIS GODLY ALLIANCE BIT AIN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL!
NEXT: THE CONCLUSION!

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THOR
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BLUBFEST IN SPACE
TO STOP THE
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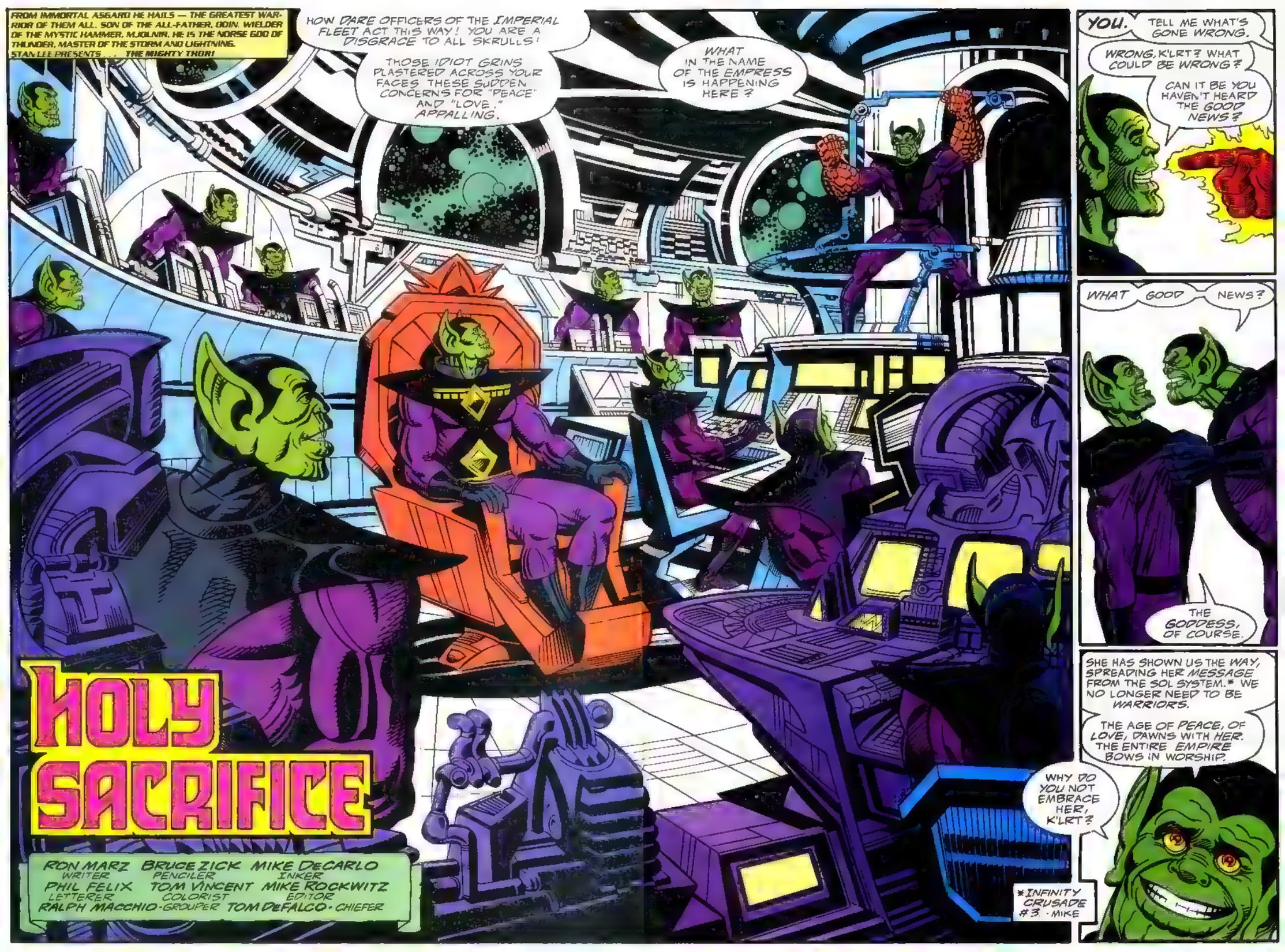
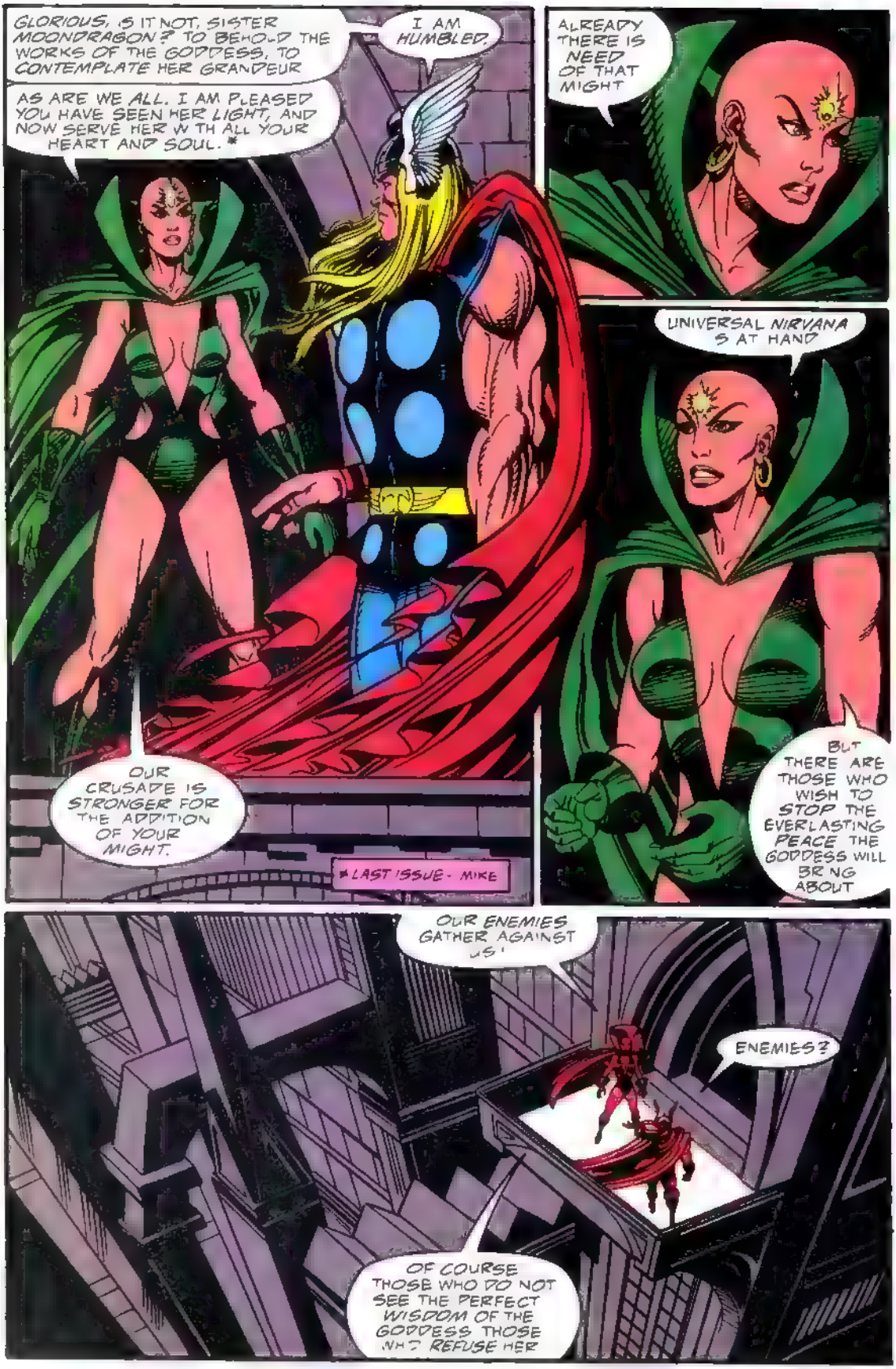
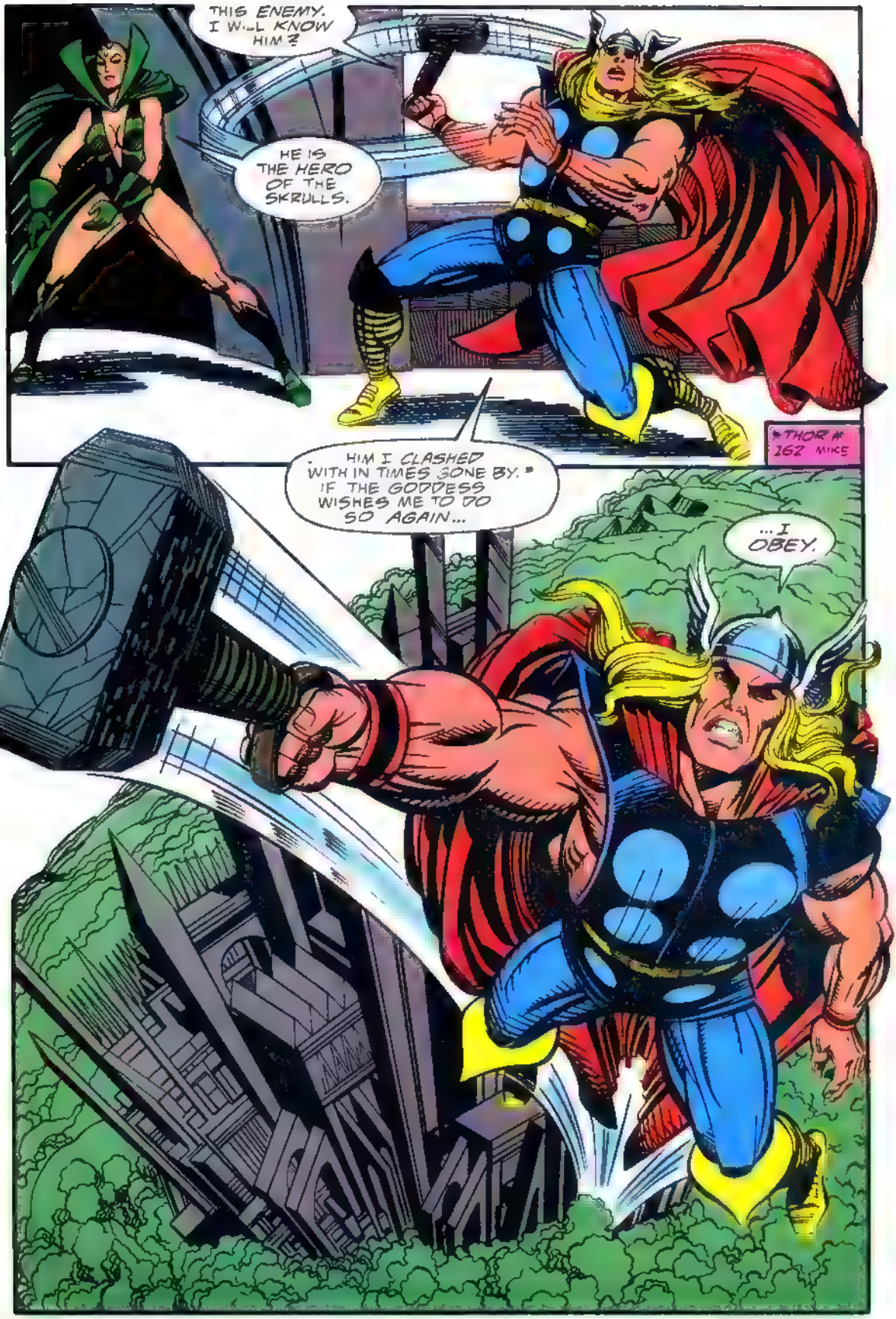

FROM IMMORTAL ASGARD HE HAILS — THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THEM ALL. SON OF THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN. WIELDER OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER, MJOLNIR. HE IS THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER, MASTER OF THE STORM AND LIGHTNING. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE MIGHTY THOR!
HOW DARE OFFICERS OF THE IMPERIAL FLEET ACT THIS WAY! YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO ALL SKRULLS!
THOSE IDIOT GRINS PLASTERED ACROSS YOUR FACES. THESE SUDDEN CONCERNS FOR "PEACE" AND "LOVE." APPALLING.
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE EMPRESS IS HAPPENING HERE?
HOLY SACRIFICE
RON MARZ WRITER
BRUCE ZICK PENCILER
MIKE DECARLO INKER
PHIL FELIX LETTERER
TOM VINCENT COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO - GROUPER
TOM DEFALCO - CHIEFER
YOU.
TELL ME WHAT'S GONE WRONG.
WRONG, K'LRT? WHAT COULD BE WRONG?
CAN IT BE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?
WHAT GOOD NEWS?
THE GODDESS, OF COURSE.
SHE HAS SHOWN US THE WAY, SPREADING HER MESSAGE FROM THE SOL SYSTEM.* WE NO LONGER NEED TO BE WARRIORS.
THE AGE OF PEACE, OF LOVE, DAWNS WITH HER. THE ENTIRE EMPIRE BOWS IN WORSHIP.
WHY DO YOU NOT EMBRACE HER, K'LRT?
*INFINITY CRUSADE #3 - MIKE

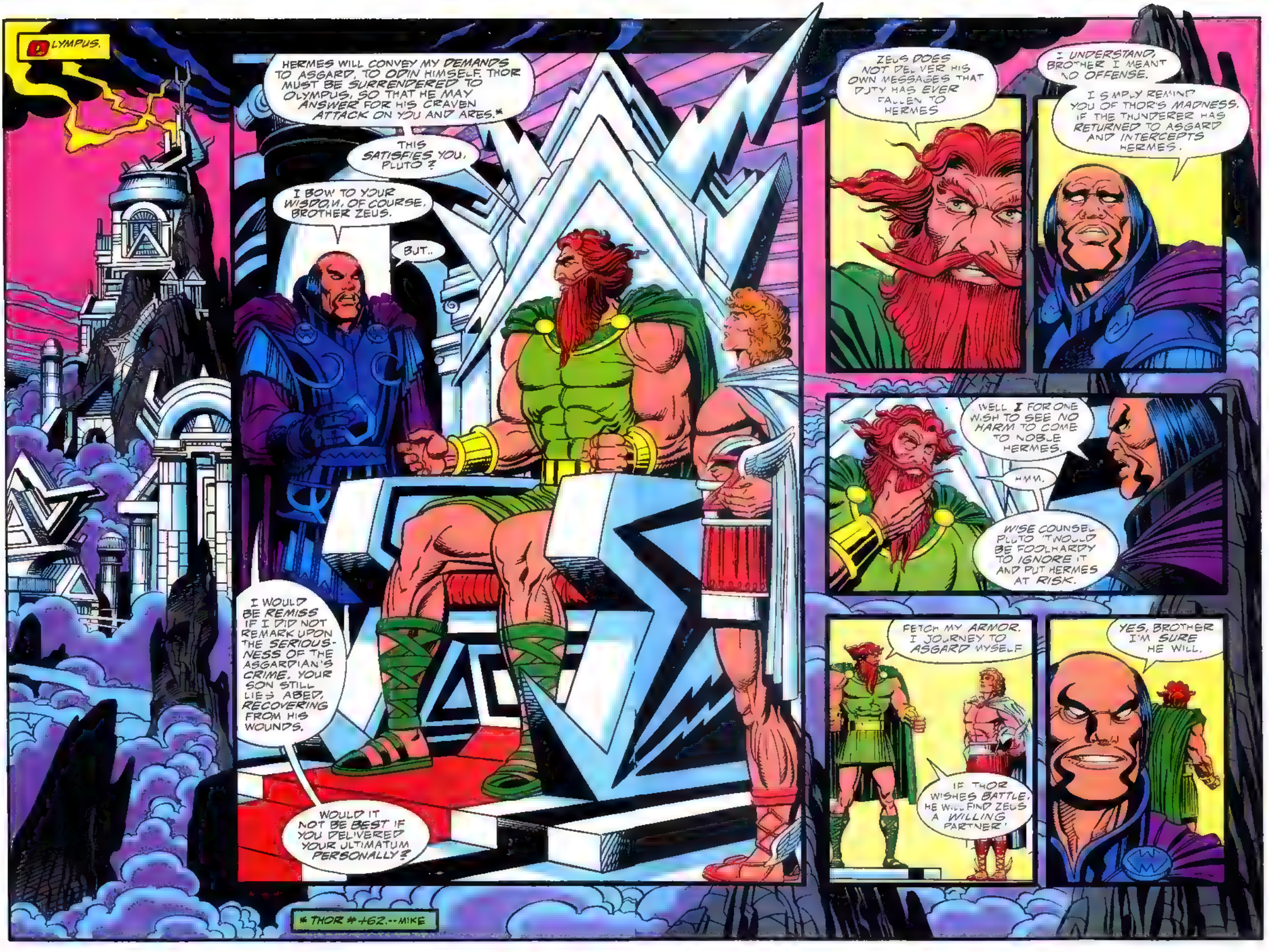
FOOL.
ALL THIS IS TRUE? THE ENTIRE SKRULL EMPIRE FALLEN UNDER THE SPELL OF SOME SELF PROCLAIMED MESSIAH?
DISGRACEFUL
SKRULLS MADE INTO PACIFISTS
BETTER WE ALL PERISH THAN SUFFER SUCH A FATE!
YET I, FOR WHATEVER REASON, REMAIN UNAFFECTED
AN OVERSIGHT THIS "GODDESS" WILL REGRET
"... WHEN THE SUPER SKRULL FINDS HER."

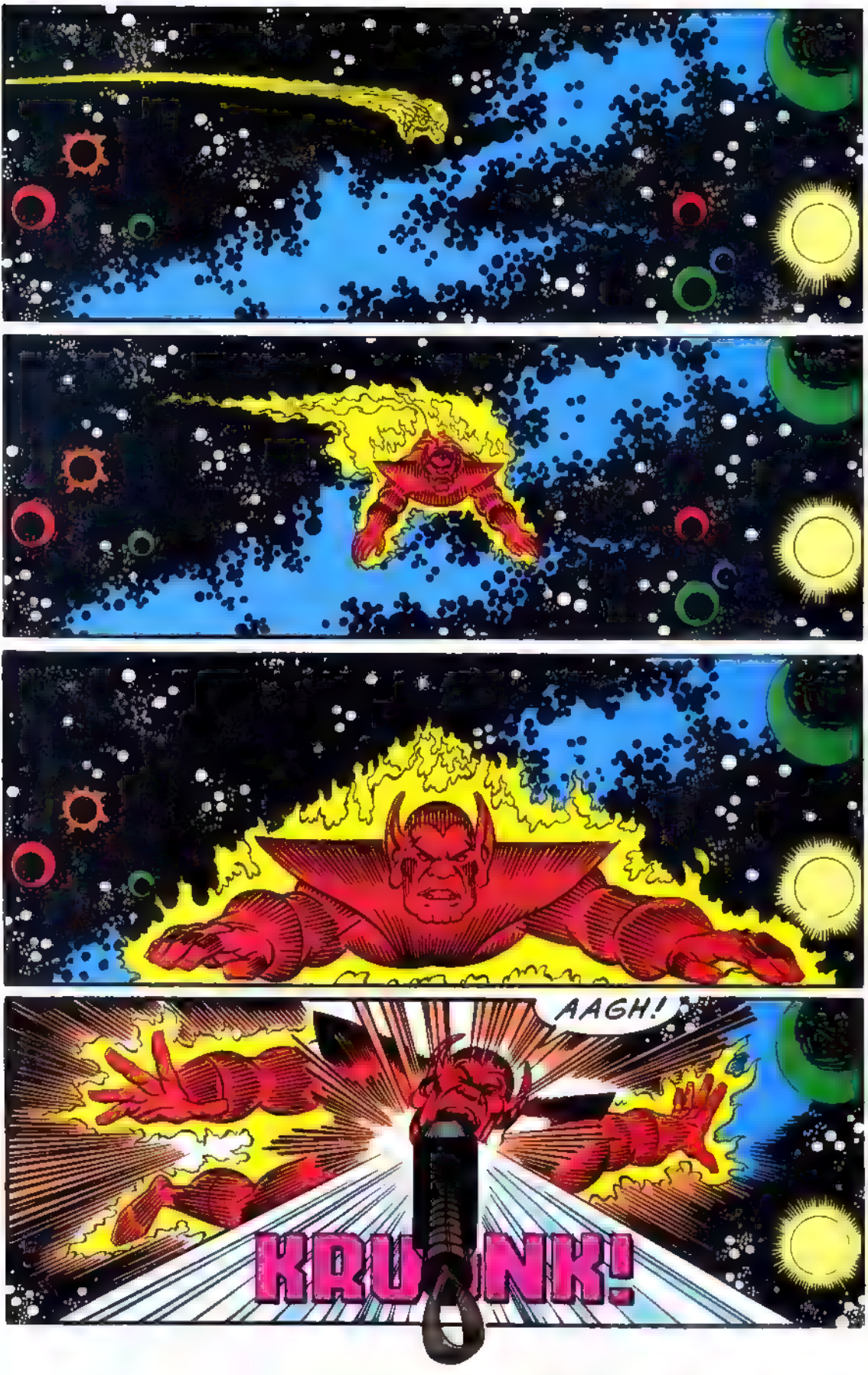
PARADISE OMEGA.
THOR..
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU


GLORIOUS, IS IT NOT, SISTER MOONDRAGON? TO BEHOLD THE WORKS OF THE GODDESS, TO CONTEMPLATE HER GRANDEUR
I AM HUMBLED.
AS ARE WE ALL. I AM PLEASED YOU HAVE SEEN HER LIGHT, AND NOW SERVE HER WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL.*
OUR CRUSADE IS STRONGER FOR THE ADDITION OF YOUR MIGHT.
*LAST ISSUE - MIKE
ALREADY THERE IS NEED OF THAT MIGHT
UNIVERSAL NIRVANA IS AT HAND
BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO STOP THE EVERLASTING PEACE THE GODDESS WILL BRING ABOUT
OUR ENEMIES GATHER AGAINST US!
ENEMIES?
OF COURSE THOSE WHO DO NOT SEE THE PERFECT WISDOM OF THE GODDESS. THOSE WHO REFUSE HER

THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY ALL SHE HAS CREATED.
WE PREPARE FOR ULTIMATE BATTLE, BROTHER THOR. FROM ITS ASHES WILL ARISE OUR KINGDOM
AYE. ANY WHO OPPOSE THE GODDESS MUST FALL.
AND THEY SHALL. BEGINNING NOW, FOR A TASK AWAITS YOU. .
WE HAVE DETECTED A POWERFUL ADVERSARY JOURNEYING TOWARD PARADISE OMEGA. HE IS UNCONVERTED AND INTENDS HARM.
THE GODDESS COMMANDS YOU SEEK HIM OUT ASSURE HE WILL POSE NO THREAT TO OUR DESIGNS.
EMPLOY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
BUT WHAT OF THE FINAL BATTLE? WILL I NOT BE NEEDED?
THERE IS YET TIME, BUT RETURN QUICKLY ONCE YOU HAVE DISPATCHED YOUR FOE.
I SIT AT THE GODDESS'S RIGHT HAND, BROTHER THOR. I KNOW SHE HAS PLACED HER FAITH IN YOU
DO NOT FAIL HER.

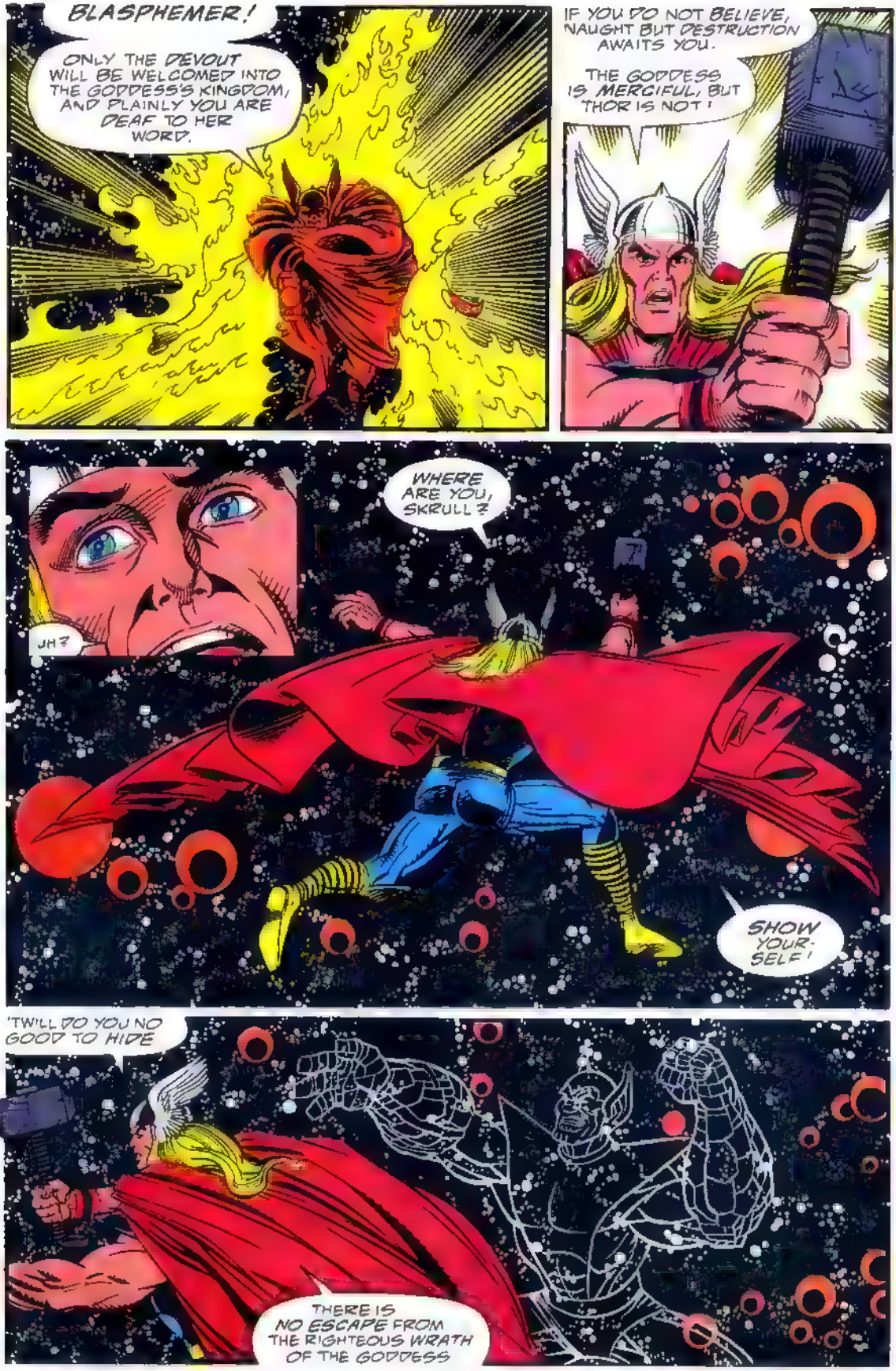

THIS ENEMY. I WILL KNOW HIM?
HE IS THE HERO OF THE SKRULLS.
*THOR # 162 MIKE
HIM I CLASHED WITH IN TIMES GONE BY. IF THE GODDESS WISHES ME TO DO SO AGAIN...
...I OBEY.


OLYMPUS.
HERMES WILL CONVEY MY DEMANDS TO ASGARD. TO ODIN HIMSELF. THOR MUST BE SURRENDERED TO OLYMPUS, SO THAT HE MAY ANSWER FOR HIS CRAVEN ATTACK ON YOU AND ARES.*
THIS SATISFIES YOU, PLUTO?
I BOW TO YOUR WISDOM, OF COURSE, BROTHER ZEUS.
BUT..
I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT REMARK UPON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ASGARDIAN'S CRIME. YOUR SON STILL LIES ABED, RECOVERING FROM HIS WOUNDS.
WOULD IT NOT BE BEST IF YOU DELIVERED YOUR ULTIMATUM PERSONALLY?
ZEUS DOES NOT DELIVER HIS OWN MESSAGES. THAT DUTY HAS EVER FALLEN TO HERMES
I UNDERSTAND, BROTHER. I MEANT NO OFFENSE.
I SIMPLY REMIND YOU OF THOR'S MADNESS. IF THE THUNDERER HAS RETURNED TO ASGARD AND INTERCEPTS HERMES.
WELL I FOR ONE WISH TO SEE NO HARM TO COME TO NOBLE HERMES.
HMM.
WISE COUNSEL, PLUTO. IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO IGNORE IT AND PUT HERMES AT RISK.
FETCH MY ARMOR. I JOURNEY TO ASGARD MYSELF
IF THOR WISHES BATTLE, HE WILL FIND ZEUS A WILLING PARTNER.
YES, BROTHER. I'M SURE HE WILL.
* THOR #462.--MIKE


AAGH!
KRUNK!

NNGFH
WHO
WHO DARES ATTACK THE SUPER SKRULL?
YOU
AYE.
'TIS THOR WHO STANDS 'GAINST YOU, UNBELIEVER
YOU GO NO FURTHER MY MISTRESS BADE ME STOP YOU..

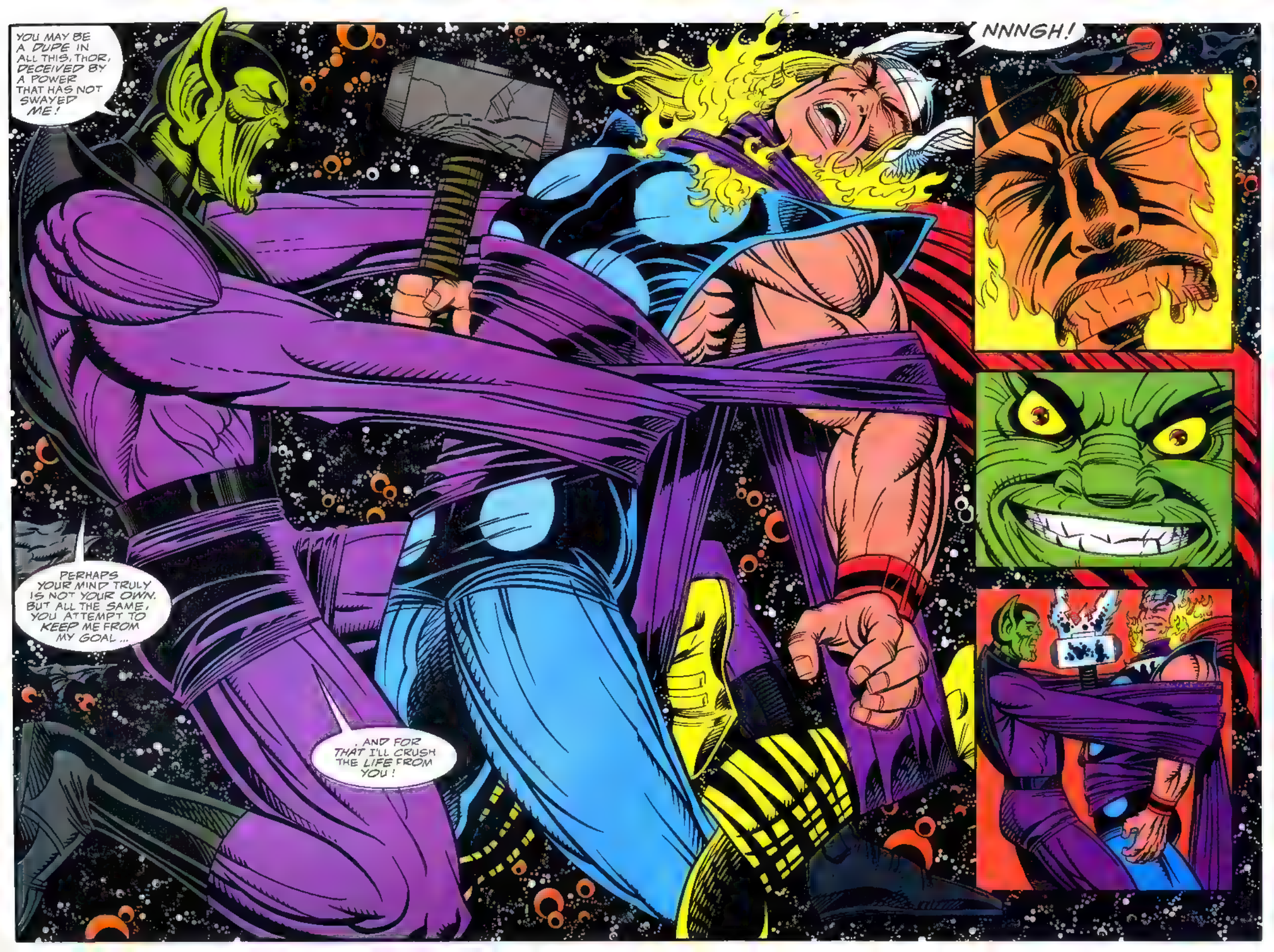
.. AND WHATE'ER THE GODDESS WISHES IS MY SACRED DUTY!
THE GODDESS?!
YOU SERVE HER? YOU TOO HAVE FALLEN UNDER HER SPELL?
YOU ARE AN HONORABLE WARRIOR, ASGARDIAN. THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN ENEMIES, YOU HAVE MY RESPECT.
BUT EVEN YOU WILL NOT KEEP ME FROM TEARING DOWN THIS WITCH WHO SEDUCES MY PEOPLE!

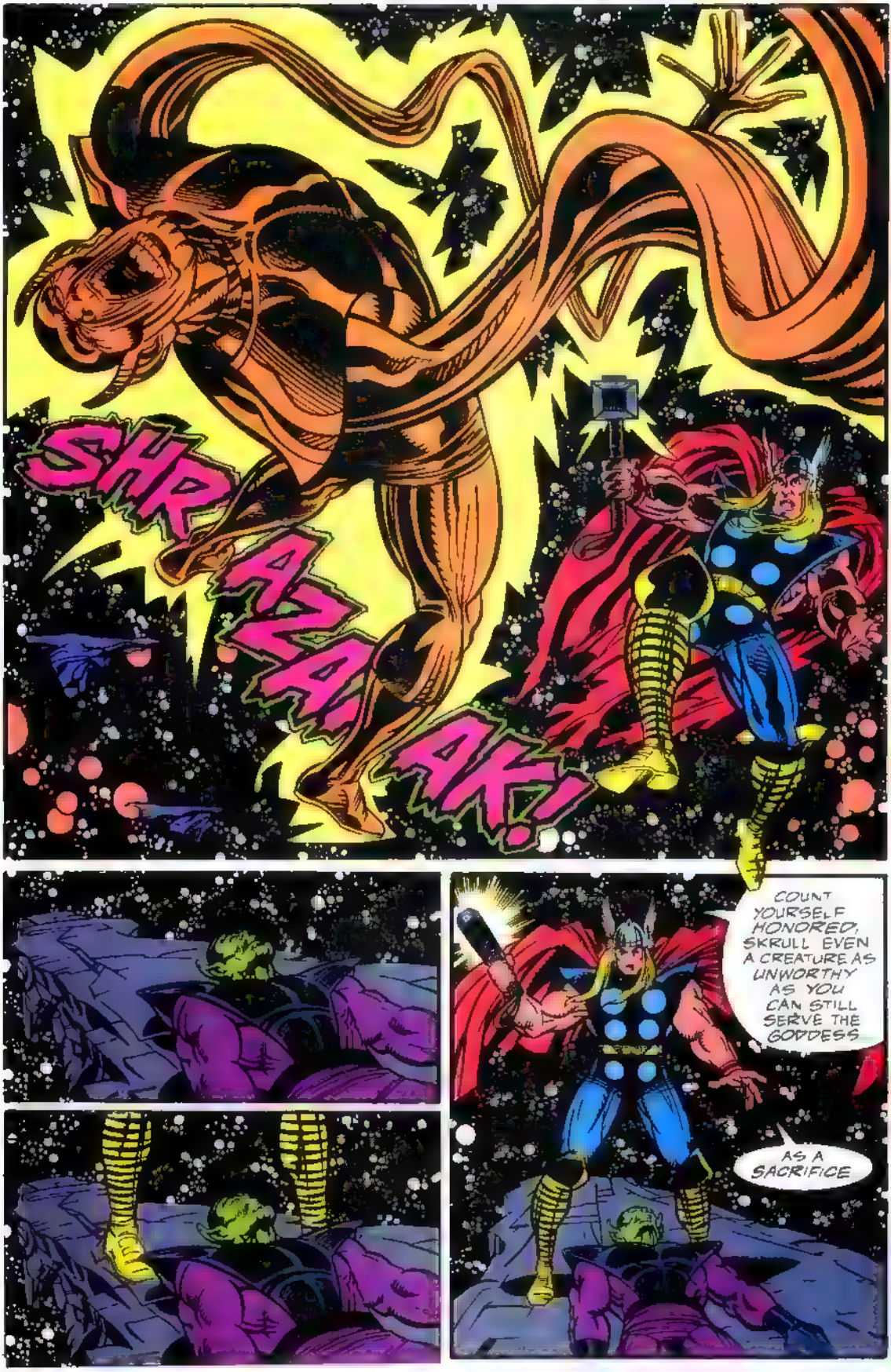

BLASPHEMER!
ONLY THE DEVOUT WILL BE WELCOMED INTO THE GODDESS'S KINGDOM, AND PLAINLY YOU ARE DEAF TO HER WORD.
IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE, NAUGHT BUT DESTRUCTION AWAITS YOU.
THE GODDESS IS MERCIFUL, BUT THOR IS NOT!
WHERE ARE YOU, SKRULL?
UH?
SHOW YOURSELF!
'TWILL DO YOU NO GOOD TO HIDE
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE RIGHTEOUS WRATH OF THE GODDESS

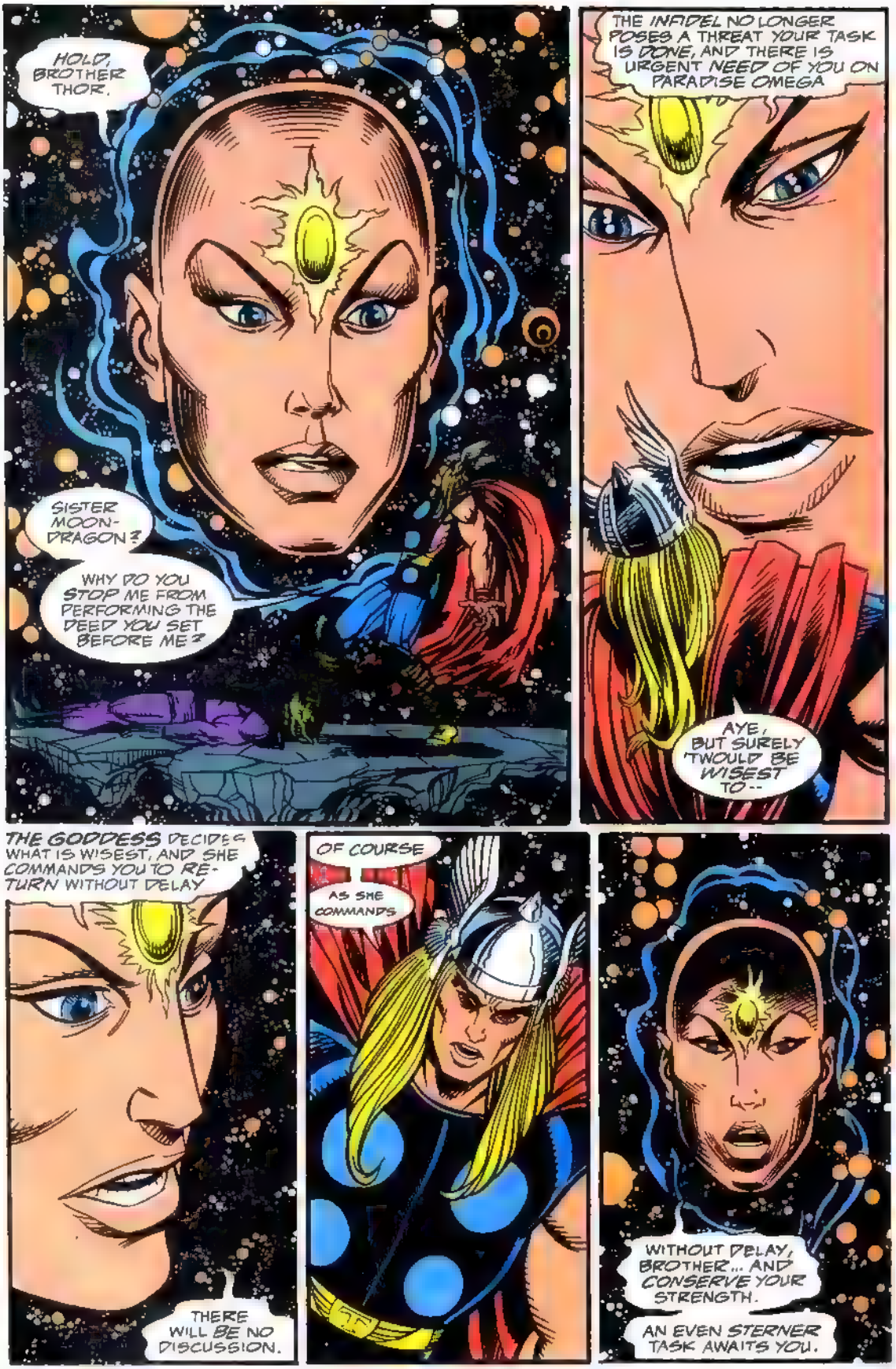
UNNF!
KRAKK
YOUR BOASTS DO NOT DETER ME, THUNDERER!
KRUNK!
GAH!
THE SKRULL EMPIRE NEEDS ITS MIGHTIEST SON TO RESCUE IT FROM THIS LOATHSOME PEACE.
I WILL SAVE MY PEOPLE, AND IN DOING SO REGAIN THE HONOR I LOST WHEN MY RANK WAS STRIPPED FROM ME *
KROOM!
UNN!

* FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #24 MIKE

NAY!
'T S YOU WHO NEED SALVATION, NOT YOUR FELLOWS! TIS YOU..
WHO ARE THE HERETIC!
SMAASH!
YOUR END DRAWS N.GH, SKRULL!
I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR IGNORANT SOUL!
NNNGK?


YOU MAY BE A DUPE IN ALL THIS, THOR, DECEIVED BY A POWER THAT HAS NOT SWAYED ME!
NNNGH!
PERHAPS YOUR MIND TRULY IS NOT YOUR OWN. BUT ALL THE SAME, YOU ATTEMPT TO KEEP ME FROM MY GOAL ...
, AND FOR THAT I'LL CRUSH THE LIFE FROM YOU!


SHRAZAK!
COUNT YOURSELF HONORED, SKRULL EVEN A CREATURE AS UNWORTHY AS YOU CAN STILL SERVE THE GODDESS
AS A SACRIFICE


HOLD, BROTHER THOR.
SISTER MOON-DRAGON?
WHY DO YOU STOP ME FROM PERFORMING THE DEED YOU SET BEFORE ME?
THE INFIDEL NO LONGER POSES A THREAT YOUR TASK IS DONE, AND THERE IS URGENT NEED OF YOU ON PARADISE OMEGA
AYE, BUT SURELY 'TWOULD BE WISEST TO--
THE GODDESS DECIDES WHAT IS WISEST, AND SHE COMMANDS YOU TO RE-TURN WITHOUT DELAY
THERE WILL BE NO DISCUSSION.
OF COURSE
AS SHE COMMANDS
WITHOUT DELAY, BROTHER... AND CONSERVE YOUR STRENGTH.
AN EVEN STERNER TASK AWAITS YOU.

AYE, MOONDRAGON..
..AS SHE COMMANDS.
MY PRINCE..
I HAVE SO MISSED YOU
VALKYRIE?
BUT..YOU CANNOT BE HERE I WAS CONVINCED I SAW ONLY AN APPARITION IN THE CATHEDRAL'S CATACOMBS *
HAVE YOU NO FAITH IN ME, THOR? HAVE I NOT TOLD YOU I WOULD APPEAR WHEN YOU NEED ME?
*LAST ISSUE, --MIKE
AYE, BUT YOU WERE STRUCK DOWN BY THE GODDESS
I SAW IT *
DEAR THOR, WOULD YOU BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOUR EYES TELL YOU?
FORGET THE GODDESS, SHE IS FAR FROM US
I AM THE WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE BE TRUE TO ME STAY WITH ME.
*THOR #463

I CANNOT
YOU REFUSE ME? OUR MINDS... OUR SOULS, ARE AS ONE
. AND STILL YOU TURN YOUR BACK?
YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS, VALKYRIE. I LOVE YOU AS I COULD LOVE NO OTHER
EVEN SO, THE GODDESS HAS SUMMONED ME
. AND I MUST GO TO HER.
FAREWELL.
HER HOLD ON YOU IS STRONG INDEED, THUNDERER. BUT THERE IS NO ONE AS CLOSE TO YOU AS I...
... AND I WILL HAVE MY WAY WITH YOU.
NEXT:
THOR VS. DRAX THE DESTROYER!

MARVEL COMICS
ALPHA FLIGHT
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
BURNED BY WITCHFIRE
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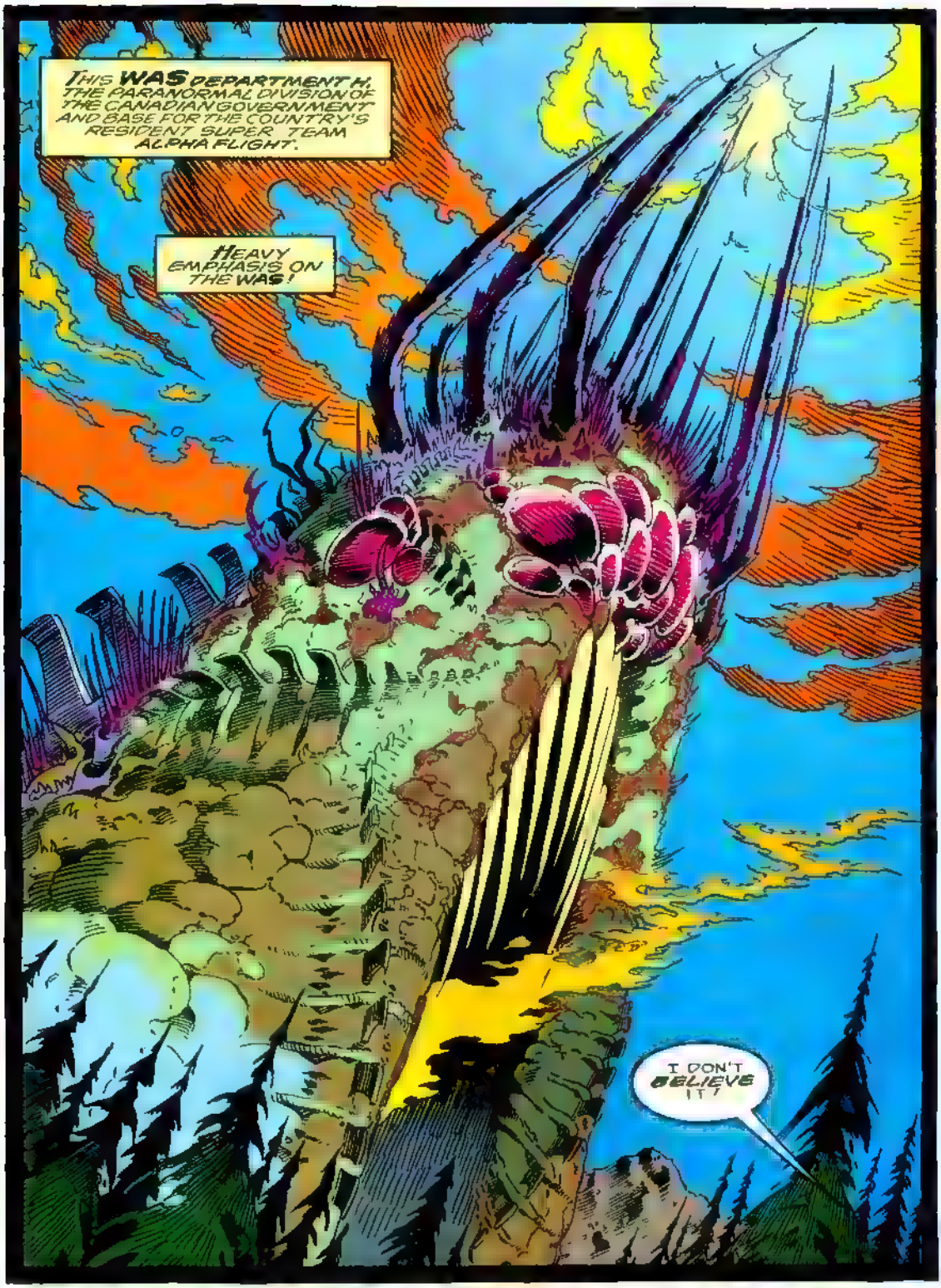
THIS WAS DEPARTMENT H, THE PARANORMAL DIVISION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND BASE FOR THE COUNTRY'S RESIDENT SUPER TEAM ALPHA FLIGHT.
HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE WAS!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

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I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN I TOOK THE CALL AT AVENGERS MANSION, AND SEEING IT.
...I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!
GUARDIAN, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE HERE. NOT NOW NOT WITH AURORA--
NORTHSTAR, YOUR SISTER IS IN THE BEST OF HANDS. REED RICHARDS, IRON MAN, AND THE VISION ARE WATCHING OVER HER *
*SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #2 FOR DETAILS.
BUT IT'S VITAL SHE'S ALLOWED TO RUN, TO LEAD US TO THE ENTITY THAT HAS CLAIMED MANY OF EARTH'S HEROES-- INCLUDING MEMBERS OF ALPHA FLIGHT.
PERHAPS THEN WE WILL KNOW IF WHAT WE FACE IS A MENACE... OR PERHAPS THE GREATEST WONDER OF ALL!
UNTIL SUCH TIME WE NEED TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER OR WHOEVER-- HAS DONE THIS TO OUR BASE!
FOR THIS TO HAPPEN NOW, WITH THE WORLD AT THE BRINK OF A NEW, GLORIOUS ERA OF PEACE AND HARMONY PERHAPS OUR TWO "PROBLEMS"...
ARE BUT SIDES OF THE SAME COIN!

HOLY TERROR!
PART 2
AH, WILDHEART... HOW WONDERFULLY PERCEPTIVE YOU ARE! THE ENTITY YOU SEEK--THIS PERSONIFICATION OF GOOD--IS EVERYTHING MY FATHER DESPISES.
HE HAS OPENED MY EYES, SHOWN ME MY TRUE BIRTHRIGHT! IN RETURN I WILL DO HIS WILL--
--AND TEAR THE GODDESS'S BLEEDING HEART OUT!
SIMON FURMAN WRITER
PAT BRODERICK PENCILER
BRUCE PATTERSON INKER
JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
ROB TOKAR HOLY MAN
TOM DeFALCO TERRORIST

BELOW...
WHOOWEE! I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE BETAS TO REDECORATE!
THIS PLACE REEKS OF THE UNNATURAL! EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING, EVERY INSTINCT...
...SCREAMS AT ME TO TURN AND RUN!
STANDING HERE ISN'T HELPING ANYONE. LET'S JUST GET ON WITH THIS!
IT IS FEAR. NOT OF WHAT AWAITS WITHOUT. BUT OF WHAT AWAITS WITHIN!
SOMETHING HERE CALLS... AND THE BEAST THAT I ONCE WAS IS ANSWERING!

FURTHER INSIDE DEPT H.
WITCHFIRE, THIS ISN'T YOU! NOT THE REAL YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF US, A PART OF BETA FLIGHT! WHATEVER HAS POSSESSED YOU, YOU CAN FI--
!!!!!
BE STILL, BOY, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, BE SILENT!
LEST I GRANT YOU THE SAME MERCY I SHOWED YOUR TEAMMATES.
YUR-- YOUR TEAMMATES! KARA, ALBERT, LAURA, GOBLYN, WYRE--
DEAD. ALL DEAD!
I AM DEMONKIND, MANIKIN. I ALWAYS WAS. THE PATHETIC HUMAN SHELL IN WHICH I WAS CRUELLY HIDDEN IS GONE I ENVY YOU, FOR YOU ARE WITNESS TO A NEW DAWN.
WHEN THE GODDESS IS GONE, SO SHALL COME THE DARK ONES-- TO CLAIM EARTH ONCE MORE AS THEIR OWN
GONE.
ARE THE OTHERS REALLY DEAD, AS SHE CLAIMS? I SAW ONLY ALBERT AND KARA STRUCK DOWN. BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO CHECK FOR VITAL SIGNS. AS FOR WYRE... THE SMASHED WINDOW WAS MUTE TESTAMENT TO HIS FATE. IT'S A LOOONG WAY DOWN!
SHE DIDN'T BOTHER WITH ME. WHY SHOULD SHE? MY OTHER SELVES ARE GONE. I'M NOTHING NOW...
NOTHING.

OKAY NOW-- SLOW AND CAREFUL UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE *US* GETTING KILLED *CERTAINLY* ISN'T GOING TO HELP ANYONE!

WILDHEART..?

SSS! WE'RE NOT ALONE!

MON AMI...

...YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR *UNDERSTATEMENT!*

NORTHSTAR, BACK OFF AND HIT HARD AND FAST! WILDHEART--

WILDHEART?

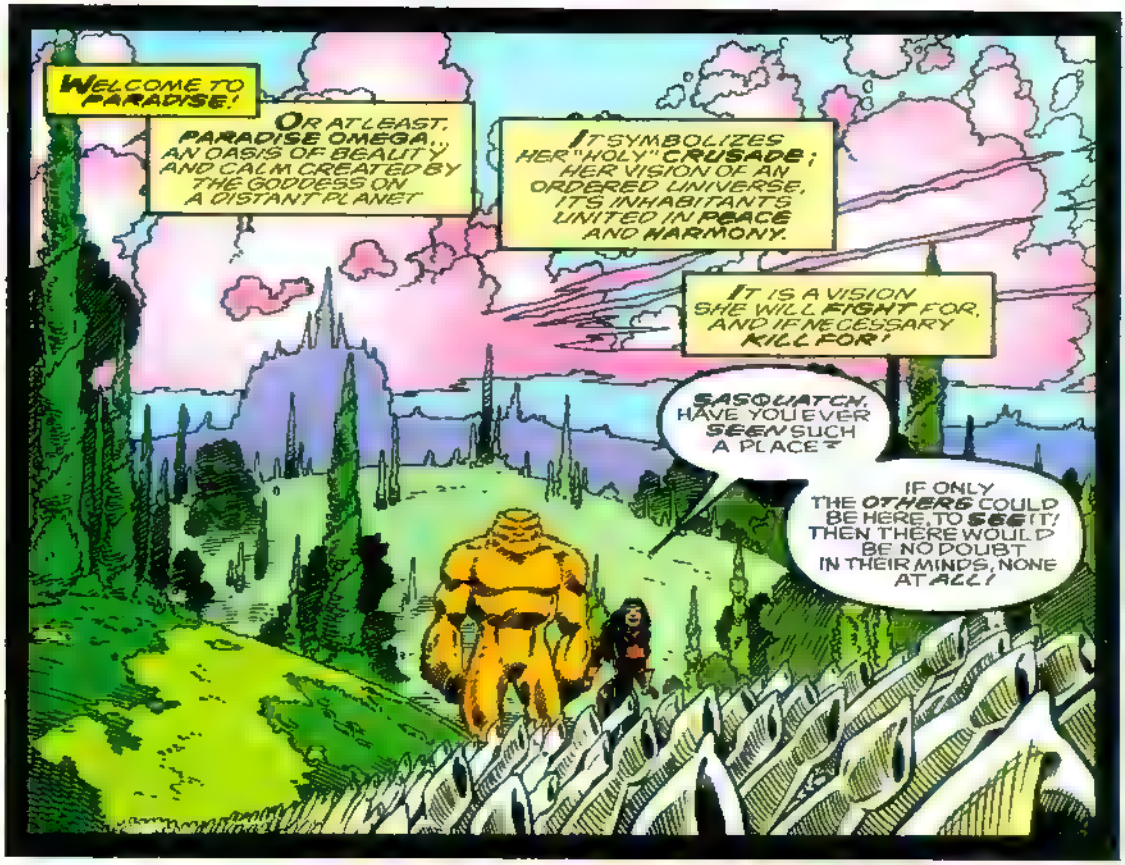
THERE IS COMMUNICATION WITHOUT WORDS, A TERRIBLE MEETING OF MINDS STRIPPED TO THEIR ANCIENT CORE.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE PREDATOR!

THERE IS ONLY SURVIVAL--

--OR DEATH!

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!


WELCOME TO PARADISE!
OR AT LEAST, PARADISE OMEGA, AN OASIS OF BEAUTY AND CALM CREATED BY THE GODDESS ON A DISTANT PLANET
IT SYMBOLIZES HER "HOLY" CRUSADE; HER VISION OF AN ORDERED UNIVERSE, ITS INHABITANTS UNITED IN PEACE AND HARMONY.
IT IS A VISION SHE WILL FIGHT FOR, AND IF NECESSARY KILL FOR!
SASQUATCH, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH A PLACE?
IF ONLY THE OTHERS COULD BE HERE, TO SEE IT! THEN THERE WOULD BE NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS, NONE AT ALL!

SADLY, FOR EVERY GARDEN OF EDEN...
THEY'D SEE THAT THE GODDESS MEANS WELL, THAT SHE--
SASQUATCH? SASQUATCH, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Muh...
Muh.
MOTHER!
SASQUATCH!
...THERE IS A SERPENT!

EARTH, THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT TO LOOK AT IT...
NORTHSTAR...?
MUCH AS IT *PAINS* ME TO ADMIT IT...
...I BELIEVE WE *CANNOT* WIN THIS FIGHT!
FOR EVERY CREATURE WE DISPATCH, SOMETHING YET MORE ***LOATHSOME*** AND DEADLY TAKES ITS PLACE!
AND WITH EACH PASSING SECOND...

"...OUR TEAMMATE BECOMES LOBO WILDHEART--
"--AND MORE WILD CHILD!"
IT GALLS ME TO RETREAT, ESPECIALLY AS THIS IS OUR HOME! BUT NORTHSTAR'S RIGHT, THERE'S NO END TO OUR ATTACKERS!
IT'S AS THOUGH SOMEONE OPENED THE GATES TO HELL ITSELF!

ELIZABETH TWOYOUNGMEN..
WALTER LANGKOWSKI..
YOU ARE TEN. YOUR MOTHER, KATHRYN IS DEAD. YOUR FATHER, MICHAEL-- THAT SAME FATHER WHO SWORE HE WOULD SAVE HER-- TELLS YOU SHE'S GONE TO A BETTER PLACE." YOU SAY..
.. THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE! SHE'S DEAD, THAT'S ALL! DEAD!
YOU ARE TWENTY, AN HONOR STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY TO SUCCEED, YOU MUST PURGE YOUR SYSTEM OF SUPERSTITION, RELIGION. IF YOU BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT, MANKIND'S DESTINY IS IN THE HANDS OF SOME OMNIPOTENT ONE TRUE GOD ..
I MAY AS WELL QUIT NOW!
THE LAWS OF NEWTON, THE WRITINGS OF EINSTEIN-- THESE ARE YOUR BIBLE, YOUR TALMUD, YOUR GOD.. IS SCIENCE!
AND YOU ARE RIGHT! THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE-- NO GLORIOUS AFTERLIFE. THERE IS ONLY FLESH, ROTTING IN THE GRAVE YOUR FATHER HELPED DIG!
SO THE SEEDS OF DOUBT ARE SOWN, AND IN THE ARMOR OF CONVERTED SUPERBEINGS THE GODDESS HAS THROWN AROUND HERSELF, A CHINK IS OPENED!
AND SHE IS VULNERABLE!

DEAD...
I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOR MUCH LONGER. THE BATTLESUIT'S POWER CELLS ARE ALMOST EXHAUSTED!
AS ARE WE! EVEN WILDHEART'S FURY HAS BURNT ITSELF OUT. WHEREAS OUR FOES SEEM TO HAVE GROWN IN BOTH NUMBER AND POWER!
NORTHSTAR, I WANT YOU TO GO UP AHEAD OF US. WE'LL HOLD THEM HERE AS LONG AS WE CAN! WE NEED ANSWERS. AND I BELIEVE THAT IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND THEM!
...THE WITCH THINKS I'M DEAD!

SHE'S WRONG!
BUT--
YOU... YOU'RE RI--
AIEEE!
GO! YOU CAN COVER A LOT OF GROUND A LOT QUICKER THAN EITHER OF US!
NORTHSTAR!

WITCHFIRE...?
HELLO, HEATHER I REALLY AM QUITE GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE!
EVEN THOUGH IT DOES MEAN DELAYING MY AGENDA ON PARADISE OMEGA!
YOU SEE, NOW I CAN PROVE THAT MY LOYALTY TO MY FATHER IS BEYOND ANY LINGERING DOUBT...
...BY SUCKING YOUR SOULS DRY!
"I FELL MAYBE THREE HUNDRED FEET..."

"...SEMI-CONSCIOUS AND BURNING LIKE A COMET!
"BUT MY WIRES ARE MORE THAN TOOLS, THEY'RE BONDED TO MY NERVOUS SYSTEM IN WAYS EVEN I CANNOT FATHOM. THEY... REACTED, FOUND PRECIOUS PURCHASE ON THE SHEER FACE OF DEPARTMENT H AND SLOWED MY DESCENT.
"YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED WHEN I TOLD YOU. WITCHFIRE...
"...I'M VERY HARD TO KILL!"
TO BE CONCLUDED!

PAIN!
FOR THE ADVENTURER, PUCK, AN OLD, OLD FRIEND.
CRUELLY STUNTED BY DWARFISM, HE LOOKED INWARD--AND IN DOING SO FOUND WAYS NOT ONLY TO CONTROL THE PAIN. .
BUT SOME PAINS RUN TOO DEEP. SOME BATTLES JUST CANNOT BE WON.
A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, THIEF, AND BODYGUARD (TO MENTION BUT A FEW), IT WAS TO PROVE A USEFUL TALENT.
.. BUT TO TAP HIS BODY'S FULL FIGHTING POTENTIAL!
LONG BEFORE HE BECAME A MEMBER OF ALPHA FLIGHT, HE LIVED A DIFFERENT LIFE, OUTSIDE OF SOCIETY'S RULES AND CONSTRAINTS.
THE FOUR OF THEM -- FLAGSTONE, PUCK, CLEFT, DEPTH CHARGE -- BONDED MORE TIGHTLY THAN FLESH AND BLOOD.
THE OUTCASTS!

Stan Lee presents: PUCK
BROTHERS IN ARMS!
PART 2
MOOSEJAW, SASKATCHEWAN.
DEPTH CHARGE -- LISTEN! IT'S NOT TOO LATE, WE CAN STILL...
GNNN!
JAW F
UH UH YOU KNOW THE SCORE, PUCK. IT WAS ALWAYS THEM AND US. YOU'RE "THEM" NOW, AND IN MY BOOK...
...THAT MAKES YOU NOTHING AT ALL!
SIMON FURMAN: WRITER
BARRY KITSON: PENCILER
JOHN STOKES: INKER
CHIANG: LETTERER SHAREN: COLORIST

YOU DON'T SEE, WILDHEART, DO YOU? ALL YOUR POWER, YOUR SKILL--THEY'RE NOTHING TO US! OUR STRENGTH IS DRAWN FROM A WELL DEEP WITHIN THE SELF. WE THINK FASTER, WE REACT FASTER--
--AND WE HIT HARDER!
FWAMM!
LIKE SO MUCH OF HUMANITY, YOU SLEEPWALK THROUGH EXISTENCE!
WRONG
HUH?
I, TOO, KNOW ANOTHER SELF; AN OLDER, INNER POOL OF STRENGTH!
BUT MINE IS THE BEAST, THE ANCIENT SAVAGE SOUL OF MAN! AND ONCE IT'S ROUSED-
KRON
--ONLY BLOOD WILL SATE IT!

MEANWHILE...
YOU'RE
THAP!
FAST
KRAK!
NORTHSTAR
CHUD!
BUT
THAK!
NOT FAST ENOUGH!
YEAH...
UUUGH!
...I WAS RIGHT. I THOUGHT YOU WERE FAVORING AN INJURY, WAY YOU WAS MOVIN'*
NNNN...
NOW SAY GOOD NIGHT!
*SUSTAINED IN ISSUE #119.
EASY? NOT BY A LONG WAY, OLD FRIEND. I KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO BE EASY WHEN I SAW OUR "UNREGISTERED PARANORMAL" WAS CLEFT! AND YET I PRACTICALLY BEGGED GUARDIAN TO LET ME HANDLE IT.
SHE TRUSTED ME ENOUGH TO BELIEVE I'D DO MY DUTY, BRING CLEFT-- AND NOW THE OTHERS-- IN.
CRATCH!
HAW! THIS IS TOO EASY!

BUT CAN I? THERE'S A BOND BETWEEN US, A PART OF ME THAT STILL YEARNS TO RUN FREE WITH THE PACK. I LOVED THAT LIFE, EVERYTHING ABOUT IT!
EXCEPT. .
...THE FEELING I WAS SOMEHOW SHORTCHANGING THE MONKS WHO'D TAUGHT ME. CHEAPENING SOMETHING SACRED!
THEY TRUSTED ME WITH A POWER FEW MEN KNOW THEY POSSESS.. AND I USED IT FOR FUN AND GAMES! I COULDN'T LIVE WITH THAT THEN...
...AND I CAN'T NOW!
WHAT THE--?
I AM NO LONGER THE FREEBOOTING MERCENARY I ONCE WAS. WHEN I PUT ON THIS COSTUME IT WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, I AM PUCK OF ALPHA FLIGHT AND THE EDICTS THAT GOVERN THEM--
--NOW GOVERN ME!
THAKK!

YOU WANT MORE? I GOT MORE--FOR YOU MUCH MORE!
STILL AS INFLEXIBLE AS EVER THE WORLD'S CHANGED, CLEFT--AND WE HAVE TO CHANGE WITH IT!
THE OUTCASTS. THE LIFE THAT WAS...IT'S OVER!
NEVER! SWAT YOU LIKE THE FLY YOU--
EH?
YOU FORGET, CLEFT. YOU FORGET WHO WAS THE PUPIL--
--AND WHO WAS THE TEACHER!
WHAM

LATER...
YOU SEE THAT GUY, THE ONE THEY CALL FLAGSTONE? THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STITCH HIM BACK TOGETHER...
YOU PROUD OF YOURSELF, PUCK?
WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO CHAIN US-- SIMPLY BECAUSE WE CHOOSE TO LIVE OUTSIDE SOCIETY'S SELF-CREATED RULES AND REGULATIONS?
YOU SOLD OUT, PUCK. YOU BETRAYED US..
"...AND YOURSELF!"
HE'S WRONG. YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.
NO. HE'S RIGHT. A PART OF ME DIED HERE TODAY, A PART OF ME I CAN NEVER RECLAIM.
I HAVE SET MYSELF ON A COURSE FROM WHICH THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK.
I JUST WISH I COULD BE SURE I'VE CHOSEN THE RIGHT ONE!
THE END... FOR NOW!!

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THIS CROSSOVER IS KILLIN' ME!
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GUARDIAN! WEAPON OMEGA! SASQUATCH! NORTHSTAR! AURORA! PUCK! WINDSHEAR! THEY ARE CANADA'S OWN SUPER HERO TEAM, DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THEIR NATIVE LAND FROM THREATS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF CONVENTIONAL AUTHORITIES.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . ALPHA FLIGHT

THIS IS NO LONGER THE DEPARTMENT H THEY KNEW.

AND THIS IS CERTAINLY NO LONGER THE WITCHFIRE WHO FOUGHT BESIDE THEM IN THE PAST

HOLY TERROR! PART 5

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN NEW YORK*, GUARDIAN. ONLY DEATH AWAITS YOU HERE!

FIRST NORTHSTAR, THEN WILDHEART, THEN YOU!

WITCHFIRE, LEAVE THEM ALONE! YOU'RE KILLING THEM!

*SEE INFINITY CRUSADE FOR DETAILS

ALPHA FLIGHT · Vol. 1-No. 124. September, 1996. ISSN #0750-0558. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Published monthly. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.75 per copy in the U.S. and $2.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $21.00, $33.00 Foreign and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. ALPHA FLIGHT (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ALPHA FLIGHT, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Printed in Canada.

FIGHT IT-- WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S GOT CONTROL OF YOU! WHOEVER YOU SAY YOU ARE, I KNOW DIFFERENT!
OKAY, MAYBE YOU WERE LIKE THIS ONCE, BUT NO LONGER! THE REAL YOU IS THE WITCHFIRE OF BETA FLIGHT, THE GIRL I WOULD--AND HAVE--TRUSTED WITH MY LI--
FFF!
.. YOU WILL SAY NOTHING!
THERE I WARNED YOU, MANIKIN, IF YOU HAVE NOTHING OF WORTH TO SAY. .
MY FATHER HAS SPOKEN, THE GODDESS AND HER DREAM OF UNIVERSAL ORDER MUST DIE SO THAT EARTH MAY BE CLAIMED ONCE MORE BY HIS MASTERS - THE DARK ONES.
EVEN NOW THEY PUSH AT THE SKIN OF OUR DIMENSION, WAITING!
WHAT BETTER WAY TO HERALD THEIR ARRIVAL -
--THAN WITH A BLOOD SACRIFICE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE HALF OF WHAT SHE'S GOING ON ABOUT, BUT I DO KNOW I'M NOT REACHING HER!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
NOW WATCH, AND LET YOUR LAST EMBERS OF HOPE FOR ME...
BUT WHAT'T MY OTHER SELVES PERISHED WHEN THE MINDWELL COLLAPSED, SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO SAVE ME I CAN NO LONGER SUMMON THEM--
UH?! WHAT..
...DIE WITH YOUR TEAMMATES!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

Elsewhere...
Far beyond mortal realms...
DAUGHTER, YOU ARE EVERYTHING I COULD HAVE WISHED FOR AND MORE!
I ANTICIPATED TROUBLE, REVEALING YOUR HERITAGE TO YOU BEFORE YOU WERE TRULY READY. BUT FROM THE WAY YOU HAVE DEALT WITH YOUR SO-CALLED TEAMMATES...
MY FEARS APPEAR GROUNDLESS! THEIR DEATHS WILL BIND YOU TO ME, BODY AND SOUL!
AS FOR THIS TIRESOME GODDESS, THE SEEDS OF DOUBT YOU HAVE LAID IN THE MINDS OF TWO OF HER "CONVERTED" ON PARADISE OMEGA WILL SOON BEAR FRUIT!
YOU WILL HAVE THE OPENING YOU NEED TO STRIKE AT THE GODDESS, AND I--
--I WILL BE ABLE TO TEAR DOWN THIS PRETENSE OF SERVITUDE!
AND TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AS THE SUPREME BEING IN THE MULTIVERSE!

MY NAME IS WALTER LANGKOWSKI I AM A SCIENTIST.
I MUST BE COLD, ANALYTICAL. I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BELIEVE, TO TRUST IN THE VAGARIES OF FAITH.
I MUST TEAR RELIGION FROM MY SOUL LIKE THE PAGES FROM - -
NO!
MOM?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT I TAUGHT YOU? THERE IS ROOM IN THE SOUL FOR MORE THAN ONE IDEAL!
BUT -
SHUSH! THAT WAS ALWAYS YOU, WASN'T IT? ALL OR NOTHING, NO ROOM FOR COMPROMISE. SCIENTIST OR NO SCIENTIST FAITH ENDURES! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LOOK WITHIN..
. AND FIND IT!"

GUUUR!
DEPARTMENT H--
WHAT--? NO... IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE GONE, DE--
AAARW!
THE ASPECT OF WHITMAN KNAPP'S MULTI PERSONA MAKE-UP HE HAS DUBBED APEMAN HAS NOT THE INTELLECT TO THINK OF PULLING HIS PUNCH.
HE STRIKES WITH KILLING FORCE--
SKRAKK!
--AN ACTION INSTANTLY REGRETTED!
MUH MANIKIN.. KEEP AWAY!
NO, NO, WAIT! I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT!
MY POWERS AREN'T GONE-- THEY'RE JUST CHANGED! I CAN STILL SUMMON MY PAST AND FUTURE ASPECTS-- BUT NOW I BECOME THEM!

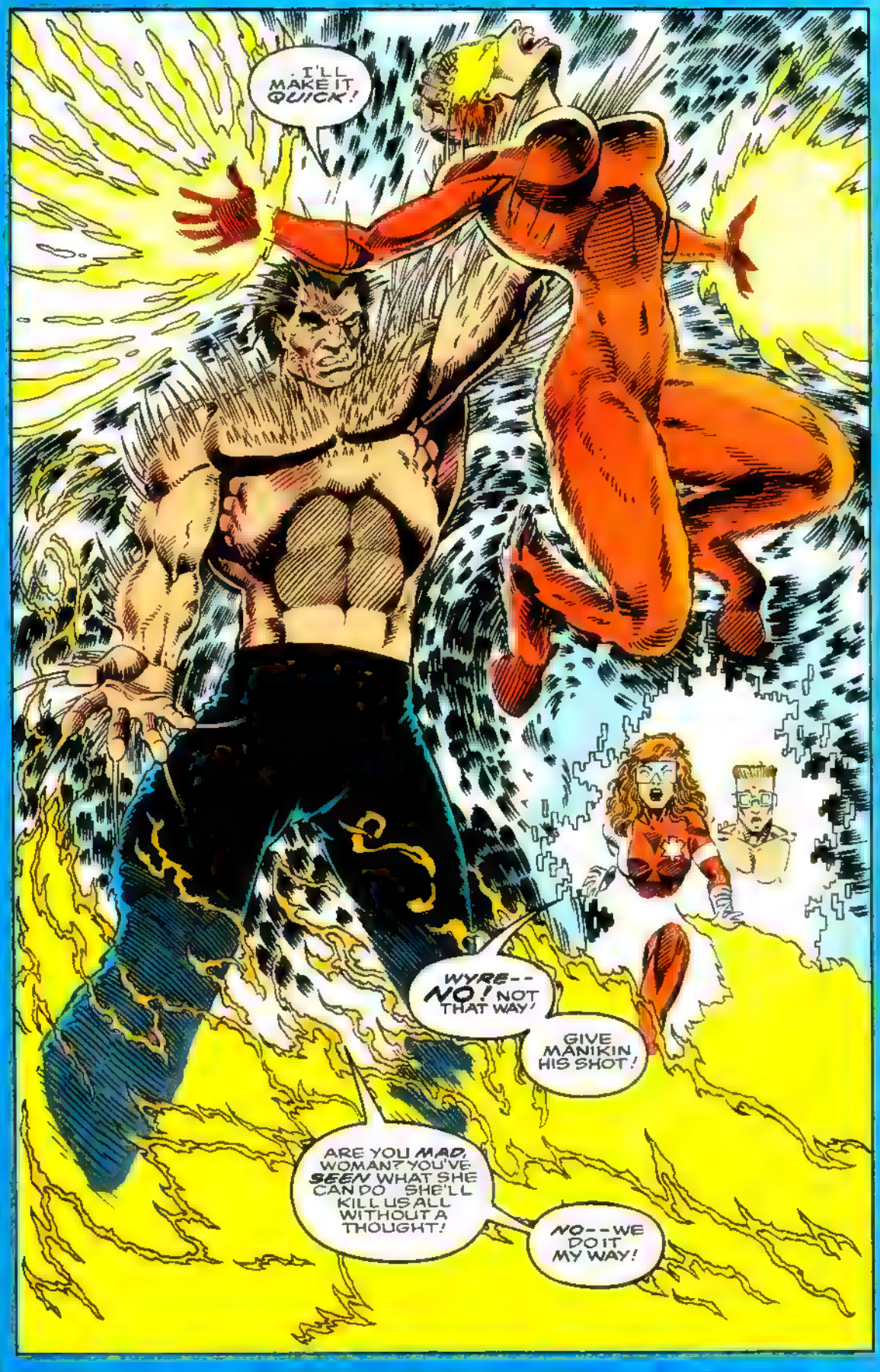
I THINK THAT BLOW SNAPPED HER BACK. SHE'S CHANGING!
SHE'S--
DEAD!
THIS TIME I'LL FRY YOUR BRAIN ALONG WITH ANY OTHER "FRIENDS" YOU MAY HAVE LURKING IN THERE!
NO!
I HATE THIS! TEAMMATE VERSUS TEAMMATE--AGAIN!
IT'S LIKE ALPHA'S PET CURSE!
NORTHSTAR--
AVEC PLAISIR!
WE HAVE TO STOP THINKING OF THAT AS OUR WITCHFIRE. IT'S NOT...PERHAPS IT NEVER WAS
WE FINISH THE JOB NOW, WHILE SHE'S OFF-BALANCE!
GUARDIAN, SHE'S STILL IN THERE - I KNOW IT! SHE'S FRIGHTENED LOST... BUT SHE'S THERE! PLEASE...
...WE CAN'T JUST ABANDON HER!

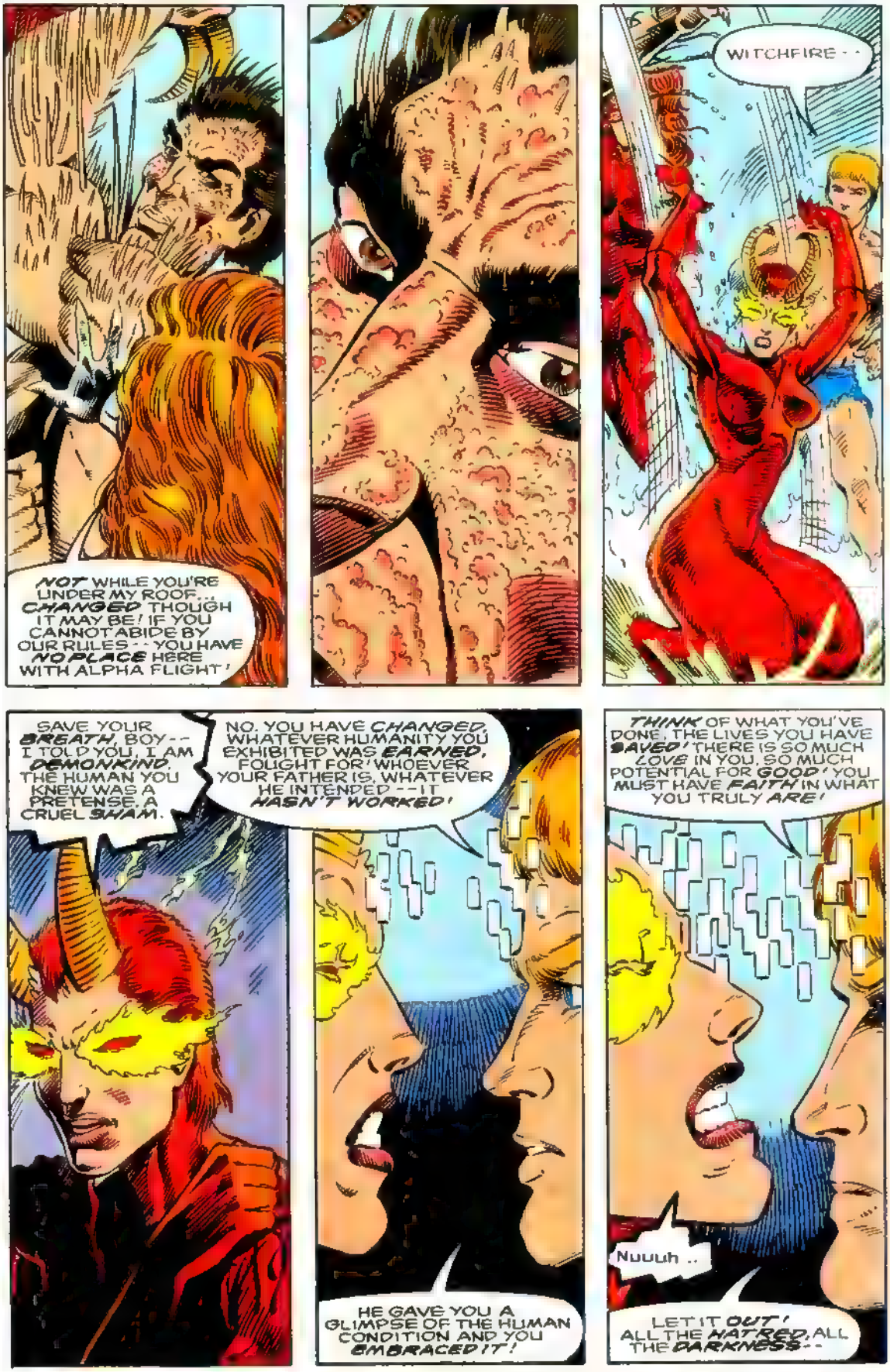
PARADISE OMEGA .
TALISMAN!
TALISMAN!
YOU HAVE TO SNAP OUT OF IT! OUR MINDS HAVE BEEN INVADED, POISONED WITH DOUBT!
SEARCH DEEP IN YOUR SOUL. AS I DID SEE BEYOND WHATEVER VEIL HAS BEEN CAST ON YOUR TRUE FEELINGS THE GODDESS OPENED OUR EYES. DON'T LET EVIL CLOSE THEM!
FATHER...
...LET MOTHER DIE. WHEN HE SWORE HE'D SAVE HER! HE TOLD ME SHE'D GONE TO A BETTER PLACE. WHEN SHE WAS JUST DEAD. THERE WAS NO BETTER PLACE!
BUT -
GODDESS!
THERE IS! SINCE THEN, I HAVE SEEN IT! NOT WITH MY EYES, BUT WITH MY HEART. I DIED THEN, WITH HER FAITH HELPED ME LIVE AGAIN...
...HELPED ME LOVE AGAIN!
G-GOD- -

DEPARTMENT H--
FOOLS!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED. SHOULD HAVE SLAIN ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE! REST ASSURED...
GHEEAH!
URRAH!
I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE!
I'M PROJECTING THE BATTLESUIT'S FORCE FIELD OUTWARD, BUT IT WON'T HOLD FOR LONG--NOT AGAINST THIS KIND OF PUNISHMENT!
GO, MANIKIN--GET YOURSELF CLEAR! THAT'S AN ORDER!
SORRY, GUARDIAN...
WHAT? NO!

NO!
COME BACK! I COMMAND YOU! YOUR SOULS ARE MINE! MINE TO TEAR APART!
I'LL HAVE WILDHEART'S... AND NORTHSTAR'S! I'LL EAT THEM WHOLE-- AND EVERY SECOND, WAKING OR SLEEPING, YOU'LL KNOW YOU ABANDONED TH-
MMMM?

THERE
I TOLD YOU I WAS HARD TO KILL!*
MMMG!
* SEE AF #122!
PARDON?
OH I SEE! BUT IF I TAKE MY HAND AWAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE YOUR DARK MAGIC
AND WE REALLY CAN'T HAVE THAT!
MM MMUU--
AAAAH!
CAN WE?
HURTS, DOESN'T IT? FAR TOO MUCH TO CONCENTRATE, LET ALONE CONJURE! DON'T WORRY...

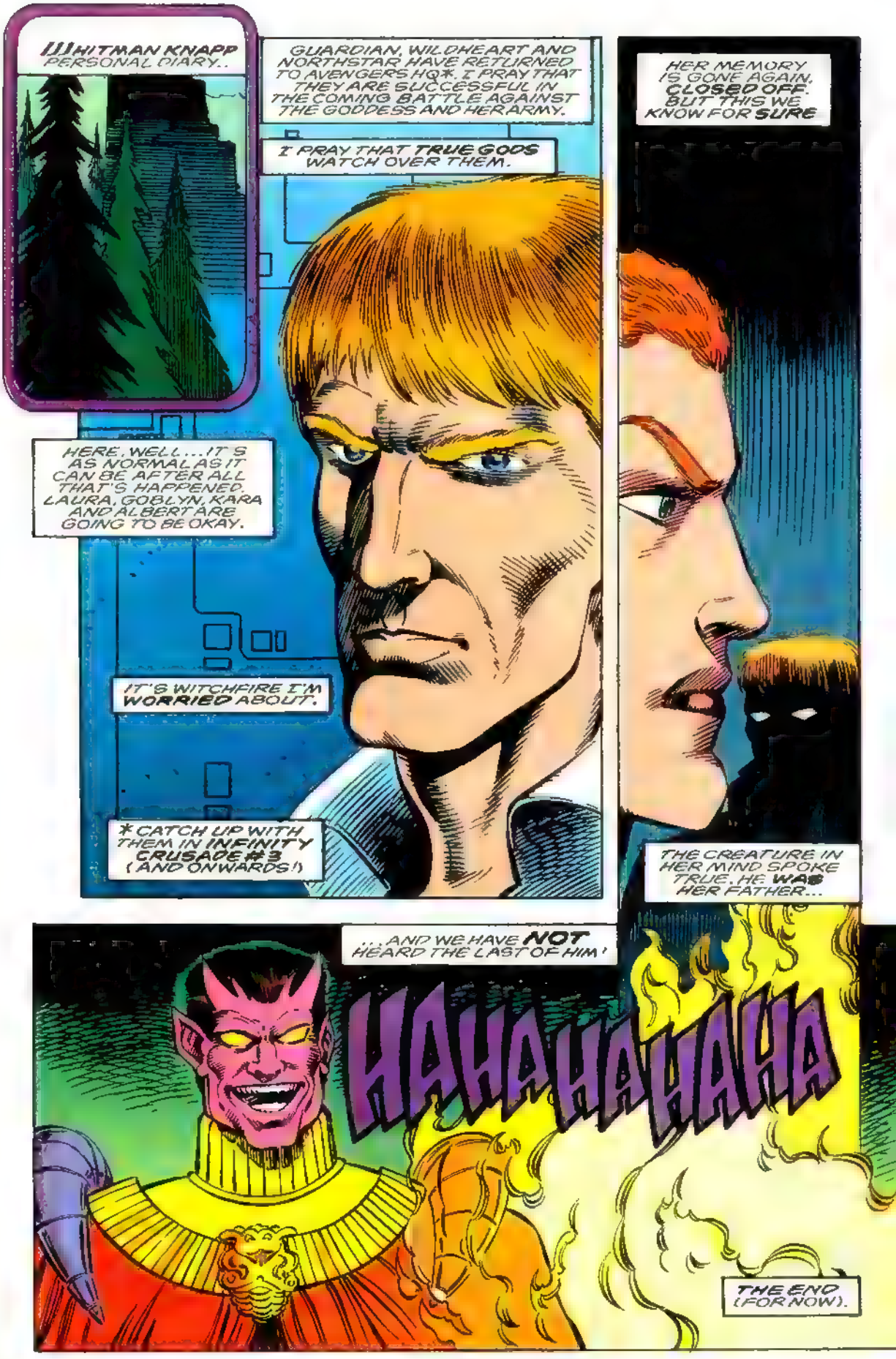

I'LL MAKE IT QUICK!
WYRE-- NO! NOT THAT WAY!
GIVE MANIKIN HIS SHOT!
ARE YOU MAD, WOMAN? YOU'VE SEEN WHAT SHE CAN DO SHE'LL KILL US ALL WITHOUT A THOUGHT!
NO--WE DO IT MY WAY!


NOT WHILE YOU'RE UNDER MY ROOF... CHANGED THOUGH IT MAY BE! IF YOU CANNOT ABIDE BY OUR RULES -- YOU HAVE NO PLACE HERE WITH ALPHA FLIGHT!
WITCHFIRE--
SAVE YOUR BREATH, BOY -- I TOLD YOU, I AM DEMONKIND. THE HUMAN YOU KNEW WAS A PRETENSE, A CRUEL SHAM.
NO. YOU HAVE CHANGED. WHATEVER HUMANITY YOU EXHIBITED WAS EARNED, FOUGHT FOR! WHOEVER YOUR FATHER IS, WHATEVER HE INTENDED -- IT HASN'T WORKED!
HE GAVE YOU A GLIMPSE OF THE HUMAN CONDITION AND YOU EMBRACED IT!
THINK OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE, THE LIVES YOU HAVE SAVED! THERE IS SO MUCH LOVE IN YOU, SO MUCH POTENTIAL FOR GOOD! YOU MUST HAVE FAITH IN WHAT YOU TRULY ARE!
Nuuuh ..
LET IT OUT! ALL THE HATRED, ALL THE DARKNESS--

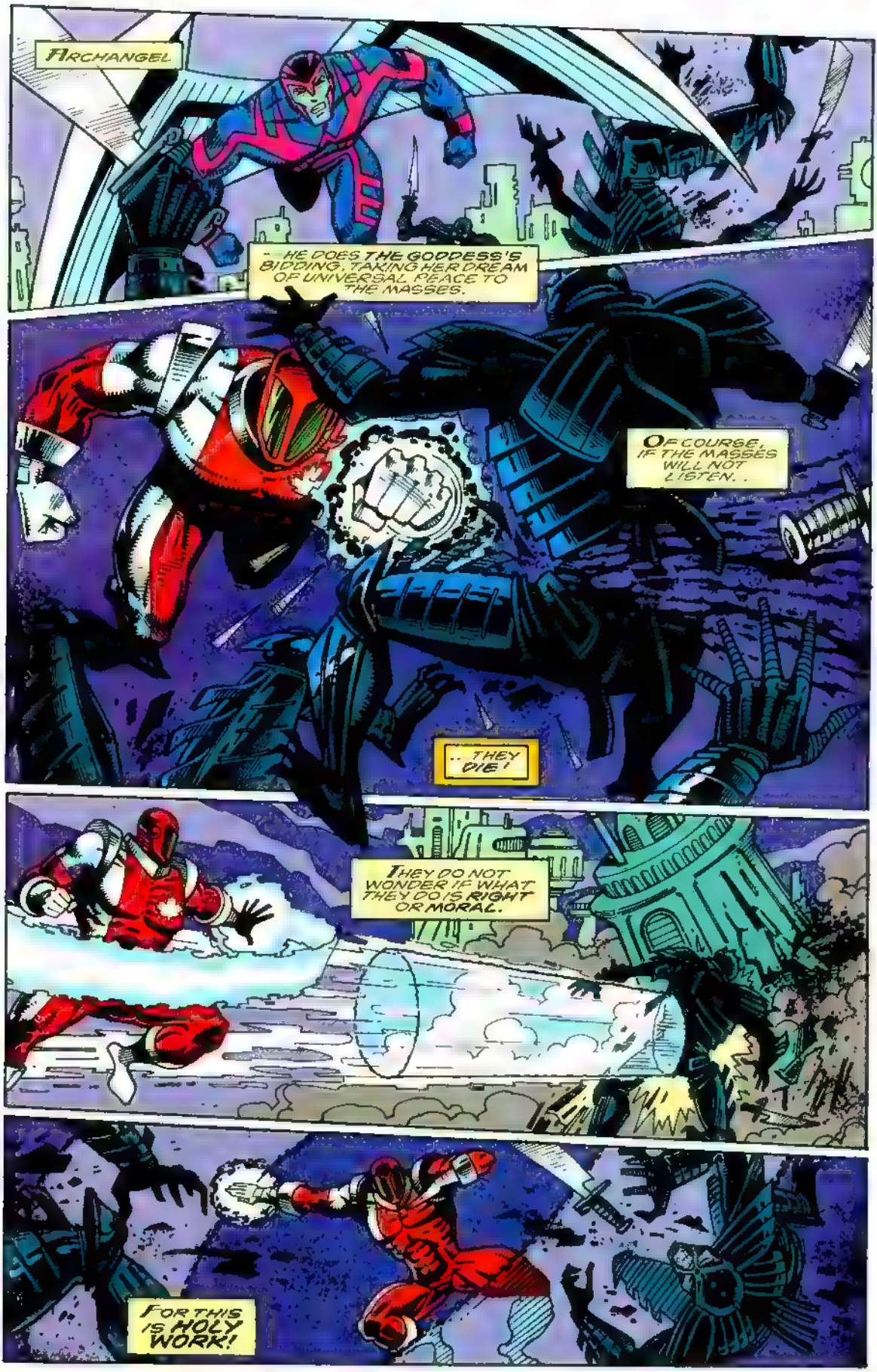
--LET IT OUT!
OOWRAAA!

TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE CONTROLLED BY YOUR ORIGINS IS TO DENY THE MOST BASIC HUMAN CAPACITY FOR GROWTH AND CHANGE!
YOU ARE HUMAN! EVEN IF YOU WERE NOT ONCE, YOU ARE NOW! DON'T YOU SEE? IN THE END THE ILLUSION--
--WAS THE DEMON!
OH-OH--
OH NO...
I-I CAME SO CLOSE... TO KILLING YOU ALL! I'M...
...I'M SO SORRY...
IT'S OVER NOW. IT'LL NEVER BE AS BAD AGAIN.
IT SEEMS...I WAS WRONG.
MAYBE BUT YOU GAVE MANIKIN HIS CHANCE, TRUSTED IN HIM THOUGH YOUR INSTINCTS TOLD YOU SIMPLY TO KILL.
IF I WAS GIVEN TO WAX PHILOSOPHICAL...
I'D SAY WITCHFIRE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO FACED DOWN A DARK NATURE.
IT IS NOT ENOUGH!
WHO--?

THE GIRL HAS COMMITTED HEINOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE GODDESS; DEFILED THE MOST HOLY OF ALL PLACES!
SHE MUST DIE!
WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SHE--
OHH!
UUUH!
SHE IS UNHOLY. SHE IS UNFIT TO LIVE!
NO!
THOOM!
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THAT, BE THEY MAN OR GOD! WHAT OF JUSTICE, WHAT OF DUE PROCESS? DO YOU KNOW SHE WAS CONTROLLED? DO YOU EVEN CARE? IF YOU WANT HER...
YOU MUST GO THROUGH US!
NOT--
--THIS TIME.
GONE. BUT I HAVE A NASTY TASTE IN MY MOUTH THAT SAYS THEY'LL BE BACK AND THAT THE GODDESS...
...COULD BE A FAR GREATER MENACE THAN WE HAVE FACED HERE TODAY!

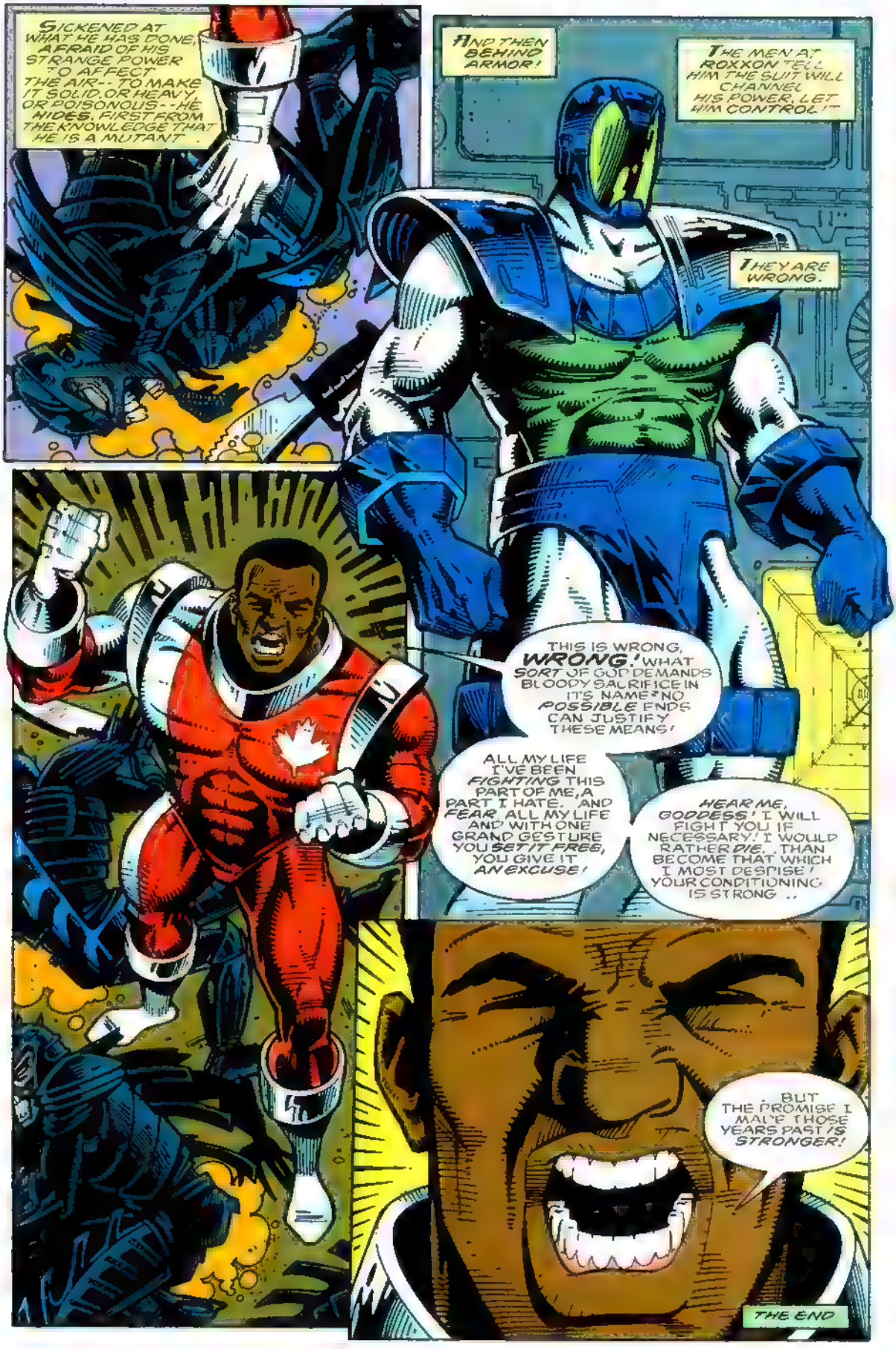

WHITMAN KNAPP PERSONAL DIARY..
GUARDIAN, WILDHEART AND NORTHSTAR HAVE RETURNED TO AVENGERS HQ*. I PRAY THAT THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE COMING BATTLE AGAINST THE GODDESS AND HER ARMY.
I PRAY THAT TRUE GODS WATCH OVER THEM.
HERE, WELL...IT'S AS NORMAL AS IT CAN BE AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED. LAURA, GOBLYN, KARA AND ALBERT ARE GOING TO BE OKAY.
IT'S WITCHFIRE I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
*CATCH UP WITH THEM IN INFINITY CRUSADE #3 (AND ONWARDS!)
HER MEMORY IS GONE AGAIN. CLOSED OFF. BUT THIS WE KNOW FOR SURE
THE CREATURE IN HER MIND SPOKE TRUE. HE WAS HER FATHER...
...AND WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF HIM!
HAHAHAHAHA
THE END (FOR NOW).

Stan Lee PRESENTS: WINDSHEAR
WIND of CHANGE!
EXPLOSIVE PRESSURE PUNCHES THROUGH ALIEN BATTLE ARMOR FLESH AND TISSUE LIQUIFY
AIR MOLECULES HARDEN INTO NEEDLES OF RIGHTEOUS FURY! TEARING
PRECIOUS GASES SOLIDIFY INSIDE A RESPIRATORY SYSTEM. BLOOD BECOMES GLUE.
AND THROUGH IT ALL, WINDSHEAR FEELS NOTHING!
LIKE HIS FELLOW CONVERTS--
HERCULES.


ARCHANGEL
- HE DOES THE GODDESS'S BIDDING, TAKING HER DREAM OF UNIVERSAL PEACE TO THE MASSES.
OF COURSE, IF THE MASSES WILL NOT LISTEN. .
.. THEY DIE!
THEY DO NOT WONDER IF WHAT THEY DO IS RIGHT OR MORAL.
FOR THIS IS HOLY WORK!

BUT THERE IS STILL THE HORROR FOR EVEN DRESSED IN RELIGIOUS FERVOR, VIOLENCE AND DEATH CARRY THE SAME SICKENING STENCH!
OH OH NO, PLEASE, NO! NOT AGAIN!
GRANDFATHER, I--I'M SORRY
...I'VE FAILED YOU AGAIN!
A MEMORY SURFACES, LIKE THE DYING BUBBLE FROM A WARRIOR'S THROAT...
HE IS COLIN ASHFORD HUME. HE IS FOUR RETURNING HOME HE WITNESSES A BLOODY STREETFIGHT.
HE IS SICKENED
HE IS FASCINATED
HE WONDERS WHAT IF I HELD THAT KNIFE? THAT CHAIN? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO FIGHT? TO HURT? HE WONDERS ALOUD...
...AND HIS GRANDFATHER MAKES HIM SWEAR, IN THE NAME OF GOD, NEVER TO RAISE A FIST IN ANGER OR HATE TO RESIST THE DARK PART THAT LIES WITHIN ALL PEOPLE.

HE KEEPS THAT PROMISE FOR TEN YEARS, UNTIL LOCAL TOUGHS MISTAKING RETICENCE FOR COWARDICE- CHALLENGE HIM
HE IS FRIGHTENED, AND
--SOMETHING ELSE!
A THING HAPPENS THE BAG CONTAINS ONLY CLOTHES.
AND YET IT HITS WITH THE FORCE OF BRICKS!
THE PIPE IS FILLED WITH AIR...
... AND YET IT IS TOO HEAVY FOR THE MAN TO HOLD
THE BOY WIELDS IT WELL THOUGH.
TOO WELL!


SICKENED AT WHAT HE HAS DONE, AFRAID OF HIS STRANGE POWER TO AFFECT THE AIR--TO MAKE IT SOLID, OR HEAVY, OR POISONOUS--HE HIDES, FIRST FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS A MUTANT.
AND THEN BEHIND ARMOR!
THE MEN AT ROXXON TELL HIM THE SUIT WILL CHANNEL HIS POWER, LET HIM CONTROL!"
THEY ARE WRONG.
THIS IS WRONG, WRONG! WHAT SORT OF GOD DEMANDS BLOODY SACRIFICE IN IT'S NAME? NO POSSIBLE ENDS CAN JUSTIFY THESE MEANS!
ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THIS PART OF ME, A PART I HATE, AND FEAR. ALL MY LIFE AND WITH ONE GRAND GESTURE YOU SET IT FREE, YOU GIVE IT AN EXCUSE!
HEAR ME, GODDESS! I WILL FIGHT YOU IF NECESSARY! I WOULD RATHER DIE, THAN BECOME THAT WHICH I MOST DESPISE! YOUR CONDITIONING IS STRONG..
BUT THE PROMISE I MADE THOSE YEARS PAST IS STRONGER!
THE END

ROUGHER, TOUGHER–
READY TO FIGHT
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Stan Lee presents:

RESCUE

He makes no friend who never made a foe.
--Alfred, Lord Tennyson

When I was this reality's Supreme Being, I chose to rule through pure logic.

To do this, I expelled all good and evil from my soul.

Regrettably this move did not keep me from losing my claim on godhood and returning to the flesh.

Worse still, this dual exorcism proved a curse to the universe in general.

So much for omnipotence and infallibility.

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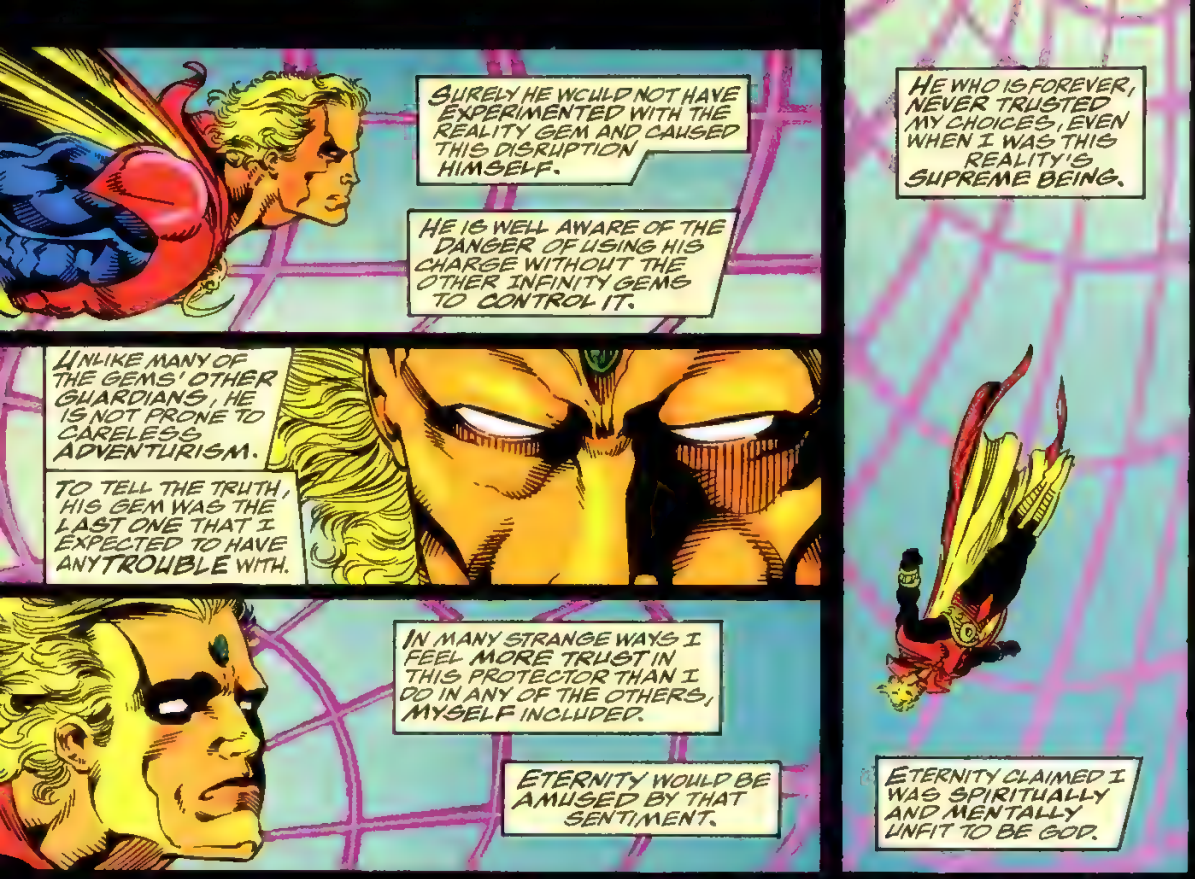
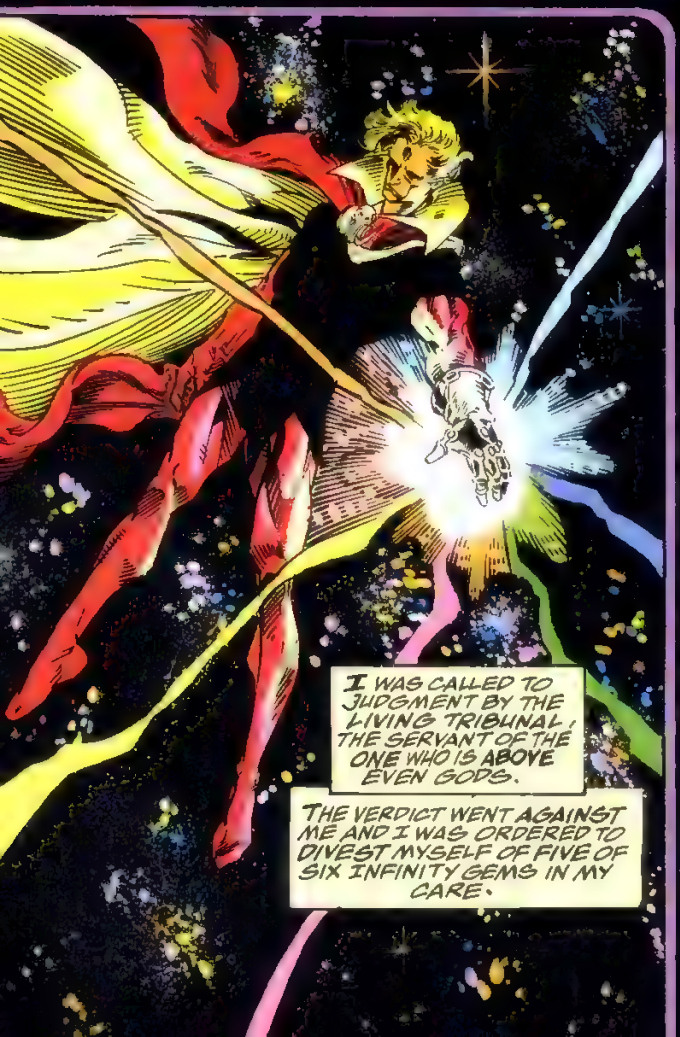
FIRST THIS REALITY WAS MENACED BY THE MAGUS, MY DARK MASCULINE SIDE.
NOW MY GOOD FEMININE SIDE HAS APPEARED ON THE SCENE.
SHE CALLS HERSELF. THE GODDESS AND THE STARS ONLY KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO.
HER FIRST DIVINE ACT WAS TO BLAST ME INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
WHEN MY SENSES RETURNED, I DISCOVERED THIS RUPTURE IN REALITY I CURRENTLY TRAVEL ALONG, HOPING TO REACH THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE.
IF I CAN REMEDY THE SITUATION, MY NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS MUST BE DEALING WITH THE GODDESS HERSELF, WHICH WILL MOST LIKELY BE A PERILOUS ENTERPRISE.
FOR I AM A CREATURE OF EXTREMES AND ANY FACET OF MYSELF WOULD BE LIKEWISE.
IN FACT, I SUSPECT THAT THIS RUPTURE MIGHT WELL BE SOME OF HER HANDIWORK.
IT IS EASILY WITHIN HER MEANS.

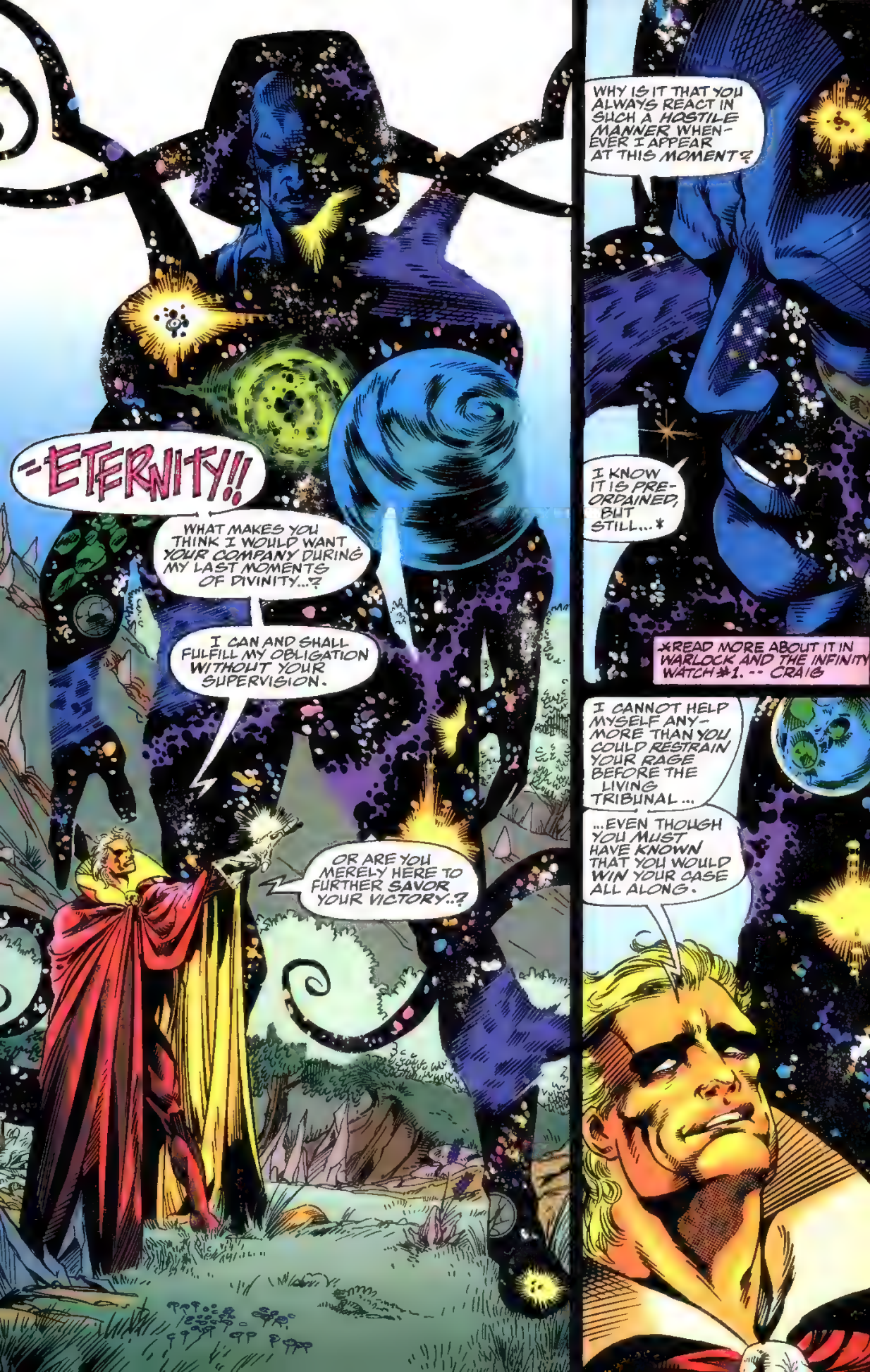
WHAT CHANCES DO YOU GIVE ADAM WARLOCK IN SUCCEEDING IN THIS ENDEAVOR, MASTER ORDER?
WHY ASK ME, LORD CHAOS?
YOU KNOW HIS UNIQUE FATE IS BEYOND BOTH OUR VISIONS' SCOPE.
THIS SPECIAL DISPLACEMENT IN OUR REALITY MADE HIM OUR CHOICE TO ACT AS OUR CHAMPION IN YEARS PAST.
HE IS INDEED OUTSIDE DESTINY'S INFLUENCE. THE UNIVERSE'S WILD CARD.
UNLIKE ALL OTHERS, THERE IS NOTHING WRITTEN OF HIS TOMORROW.
HE IS ANYTHING HE AND THE MOMENT WISH HIM TO BE.
SEEING THAT THE GODDESS POSSESSES ALL MY KNOWLEDGE, AS THE MAGUS DID, SHE WOULD KNOW OF THE REALITY GEM AND WHERE TO FIND IT.
THIS RUPTURE COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THAT INFINITY GEM AND, UNFORTUNATELY...
...IT IS OBVIOUSLY THE ONLY CURE FOR THIS DISORDER.

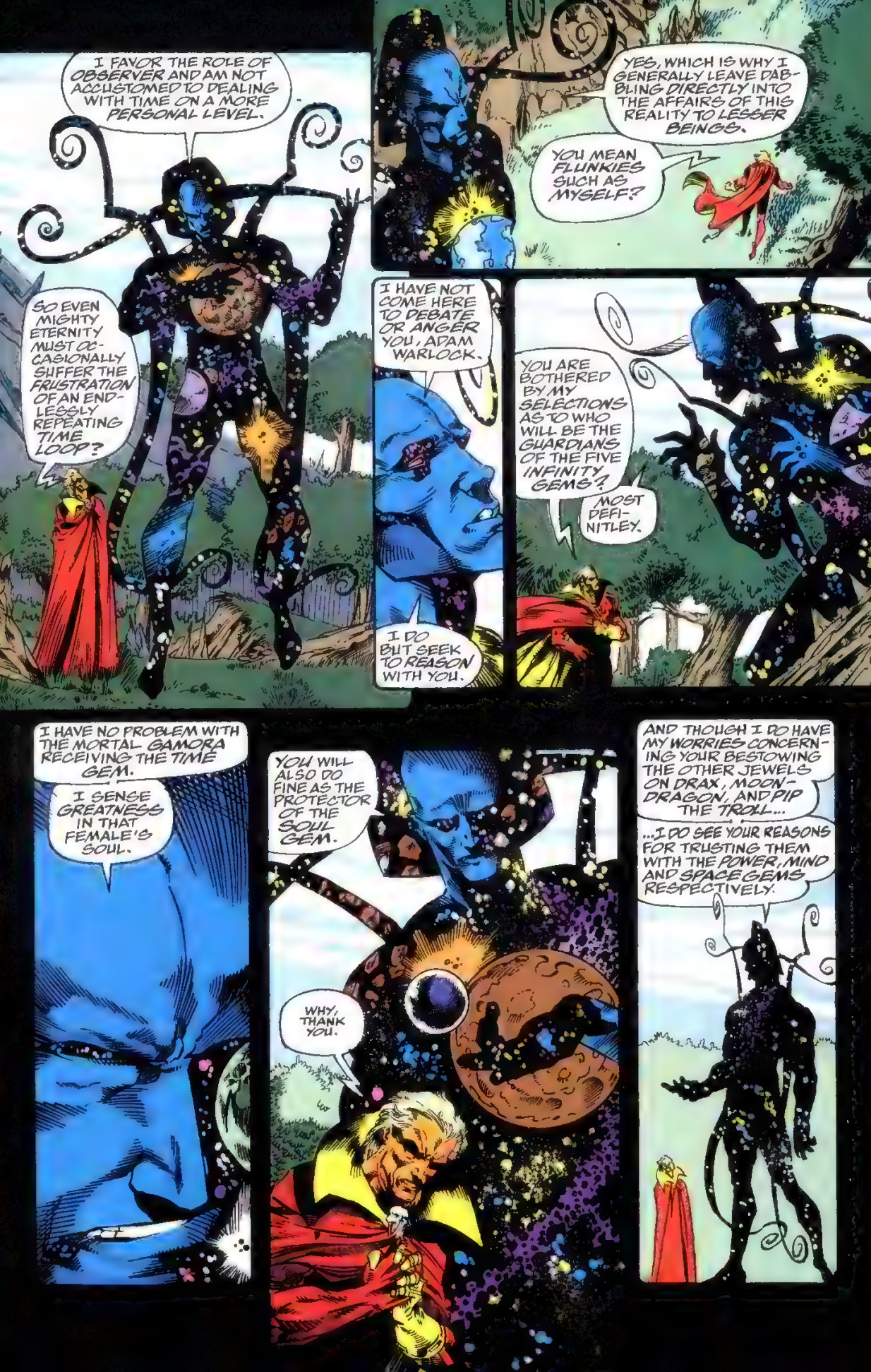
BUT WILL THAT ASSET ALLOW HIM TO PREVAIL OVER HIS CURRENT PROBLEMS, I WONDER.
PERHAPS. PERHAPS NOT.
THE FOE HE FACES IS AS UNPREDICTABLE AS HIMSELF, FOR IT IS HIMSELF.
'TIS A PITY ETERNITY AND INFINITY HAVE JUDGED THIS MATTER NONE OF OUR AFFAIR.
YES. SHOULD WARLOCK FAIL, THIS REALITY WILL BECOME A DISMAL SETTING.
BUT WE MUST OBEY HE WHO IS FOREVER AND SHE WHO IS ALL.
STILL, THAT EDICT DOES NOT KEEP US FROM OBSERVING HIS PROGRESS, DOES IT?
NOT AT ALL.
AND MAY THE SUPREME WILL SMILE ON THE GOLDEN WARRIOR.
THE MERE FACT THAT THIS ACTUALITY RIFT CONTINUES TO UNFURL WOULD INDICATE THE REALITY GEM'S PROTECTOR IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL OF THE JEWEL.
CHANCES ARE THAT HE HAS EVEN FALLEN VICTIM TO THIS RIFT.
THAT, IN ITSELF, IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE.


SURELY HE WOULD NOT HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH THE REALITY GEM AND CAUSED THIS DISRUPTION HIMSELF.
HE IS WELL AWARE OF THE DANGER OF USING HIS CHARGE WITHOUT THE OTHER INFINITY GEMS TO CONTROL IT.
UNLIKE MANY OF THE GEMS' OTHER GUARDIANS, HE IS NOT PRONE TO CARELESS ADVENTURISM.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, HIS GEM WAS THE LAST ONE THAT I EXPECTED TO HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH.
IN MANY STRANGE WAYS I FEEL MORE TRUST IN THIS PROTECTOR THAN I DO IN ANY OF THE OTHERS, MYSELF INCLUDED.
ETERNITY WOULD BE AMUSED BY THAT SENTIMENT.
HE WHO IS FOREVER, NEVER TRUSTED MY CHOICES, EVEN WHEN I WAS THIS REALITY'S SUPREME BEING.
ETERNITY CLAIMED I WAS SPIRITUALLY AND MENTALLY UNFIT TO BE GOD.


I WAS CALLED TO JUDGMENT BY THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, THE SERVANT OF THE ONE WHO IS ABOVE EVEN GODS.
THE VERDICT WENT AGAINST ME AND I WAS ORDERED TO DIVEST MYSELF OF FIVE OF SIX INFINITY GEMS IN MY CARE.

I WAS PREPARING TO DO JUST THAT WHEN I SUDDENLY SENSED THAT I WAS NO LONGER ALONE...
SHOW YOURSELF--


-ETERNITY!!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WOULD WANT YOUR COMPANY DURING MY LAST MOMENTS OF DIVINITY...?
I CAN AND SHALL FULFILL MY OBLIGATION WITHOUT YOUR SUPERVISION.
OR ARE YOU MERELY HERE TO FURTHER SAVOR YOUR VICTORY..?
WHY IS IT THAT YOU ALWAYS REACT IN SUCH A HOSTILE MANNER WHENEVER I APPEAR AT THIS MOMENT?
I KNOW IT IS PREORDAINED, BUT STILL...*
*READ MORE ABOUT IT IN WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #1. -- CRAIG
I CANNOT HELP MYSELF ANYMORE THAN YOU COULD RESTRAIN YOUR RAGE BEFORE THE LIVING TRIBUNAL...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WOULD WIN YOUR CASE ALL ALONG.


I FAVOR THE ROLE OF OBSERVER AND AM NOT ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING WITH TIME ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL.
SO EVEN MIGHTY ETERNITY MUST OCCASIONALLY SUFFER THE FRUSTRATION OF AN ENDLESSLY REPEATING TIME LOOP?
YES, WHICH IS WHY I GENERALLY LEAVE DABBLING DIRECTLY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THIS REALITY TO LESSER BEINGS.
YOU MEAN FLUNKIES SUCH AS MYSELF?
I HAVE NOT COME HERE TO DEBATE OR ANGER YOU, ADAM WARLOCK.
I DO BUT SEEK TO REASON WITH YOU.
YOU ARE BOTHERED BY MY SELECTIONS AS TO WHO WILL BE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FIVE INFINITY GEMS?
MOST DEFINITLEY.
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE MORTAL GAMORA RECEIVING THE TIME GEM.
I SENSE GREATNESS IN THAT FEMALE'S SOUL.
YOU WILL ALSO DO FINE AS THE PROTECTOR OF THE SOUL GEM.
WHY, THANK YOU.
AND THOUGH I DO HAVE MY WORRIES CONCERNING YOUR BESTOWING THE OTHER JEWELS ON DRAX, MOONDRAGON, AND PIP THE TROLL...
...I DO SEE YOUR REASONS FOR TRUSTING THEM WITH THE POWER, MIND AND SPACE GEMS RESPECTIVELY.

BUT YOUR CHOICE FOR GUARDIAN OF THE REALITY GEM IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!
HE WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS AND LIABILITIES OF POSSESSING THE GEM AND HAS THE POWER TO PROTECT IT.
TRUE.
BUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF HIM ABUSING THIS TRUST ARE FRIGHTENING.
NEED I REMIND YOU HOW HE RECENTLY--
THAT WAS THEN; THIS IS NOW, ETERNITY.
I HAVE USED MY GODLY POWERS TO THOROUGHLY CONSIDER THE SITUATION AND HAVE MADE MY DECISION!
IN JOINING FORCES WITH YOU HE WILL SHARE SOMEWHAT YOUR ABILITY TO BE BEYOND MY RANGE OF INFLUENCE.
WHAT CAN YOU BE THINKING IN SELECTING HIM?!
DO NOT TRUST OVERLY MUCH IN THE ASSUMPTION THAT SUPREMECY BRINGS WITH IT COMPLETE INFALLIBILITY, WARLOCK.
TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE ARE CONSTANTLY IN FLUX.
I DO NOT APPRECIATE BEING LECTURED, ETERNITY, OR HAVING MY JUDGMENT CALLED INTO QUESTION!
INDEED.

YOU PLAY AT ULTIMATE POWER WITH A SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECT INSUFFICIENT TO THE TASK.
WHILE I, ETERNITY, MUST LIVE FOREVER WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT YOU DO THIS DAY.
THIS SHOULD NOT BE!
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO--
BE GONE.
THAT'S BETTER.
NOW LET ME BE ABOUT FORMING MY INFINITY WATCH!
IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE I WAS EVER SO BRASH AND ARROGANT. I CERTAINLY DO NOT FEEL THAT WAY THESE DAYS.
AM I NOW PAYING FOR PAST SINS? WAS ETERNITY CORRECT?
DID I CHOOSE THE WRONG GUARDIAN FOR THE REALITY GEM?

I WILL SOON KNOW FOR I AM ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW REALITY LAYER ALONG THE DISRUPTION RIFT.
AN OBVIOUS STRATUM OF DISTORTION.
PASSING THROUGH IT WILL BE DIFFICULT.
PERHAPS EVEN IMPOSSIBLE!
BY THE STARS!
I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS--!

UTTER UNREALITY!
NO PERSPECTIVE!
NO GROUNDING!
NO NORMALCY TO CLING TO!
HOW CAN I HOPE TO NAVIGATE THESE TROUBLED WATERS?!
BY INCHING MY WAY ALONG THE OUTER EDGE OF THE VORTEX!
I'M ALWAYS MOST COMFORTABLE ON THE EDGE OF ANY REALITY.
HAVE TO FOCUS MY SOUL GEM ONTO THE SPIRIT OF THE REALITY GEM'S GUARDIAN!
GOT IT!
HE STILL LIVES!
I CAN NOW USE HIM AS A BEACON TO GUIDE ME TO THE HEART OF THIS INSANITY!

I MADE IT!!
AT LEAST THROUGH THIS FIRST LEVEL OF DISTORTION. THANK THE HEAVENS THERE APPEAR TO BE BREAKS BETWEEN STRATA.
BUT AS BAD AS THAT FIRST LEVEL WAS, I CAN BE CERTAIN THE NEXT WILL BE WORSE.
AND THE ONE AFTER THAT EVEN MORE HORRIFYING.
CAN I ENDURE THIS TRIAL...?
I MUST!
FOR IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THIS UN-REALITY RIFT COULD EASILY WIDEN AND ENGULF ALL ACTUALITY.
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WOULD CHANGE INTO ONE VAST MADHOUSE!
THE VERY CONCEPT OF REALITY MIGHT BECOME A FORGOTTEN RELIC!

THERE WOULD BE NO DIVISION OF WHAT IS AND WHAT MIGHT BE!
THE LINES BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF COULD FADE FROM MEANING.
ENERGY AND MATTER WOULD BECOME INTERCHANGABLE!
THE SPIRIT MIGHT BE NO DIFFERENT THAN THE FLESH!
NO UP OR DOWN, RIGHT OR LEFT. DIRECTIONLESS! BASELESS!

NO SUCH THING AS INDIVIDUALITY ANYMORE.
WE ARE ALL ONE AND ALL IS NOTHING.
AN M.C. ESCHER EXISTENCE ON A STRING WITH NO END.
RIVERS OF INSANITY FLOWING THROUGH A DESERT OF IMPOSSIBILITY.
ALL THE NIGHTMARES THAT EVER WERE SHALL BECOME TOMORROW'S REALITY.
BUT NONE OF THESE WONDERS WILL HAVE ANY MEANING BECAUSE NOTHING WILL BE VALID.
ONE SHALL NOT BE CAPABLE OF BELIEVING IN ANYTHING BECAUSE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WILL BE REAL.
A UNIVERSE OF THE ABSTRACT.

NO MORE !!

THE LAST STRATUM OF DISTORTION....
I HAVE MADE IT THROUGH....
BUT NOW...

...THERE STILL REMAINS A PROTECTIVE SPHERE OF UNTRUTH TO BREACH BEFORE REALITY CAN BE RESTORED.

THE LAST LIE IS ALWAYS THE HARDEST TO CORRECT.

BUT I SHALL NOT FALTER!
REALITY EMBRACE ME!
AS I DO YOU!

EVERTHING BACK TO NORMAL....
IN A STRANGE ROOM?
WHERE?
THE GUARDIAN OF THE REALITY GEM?

THANOS OF TITAN
--IS ALIVE AND WELL WITHIN HIS SECRET SANCTUARY!
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT I AM IN YOUR DEBT TO THE TUNE OF ONE TIMELY RESCUE.
I DID NOT KNOW WE WERE KEEPING A TALLY.
WE ARE NOT, ESPECIALLY SEEING AS HOW I SUSPECT I KNOW THE TRUE SOURCE OF MY RECENT WOES.
MEANING?
IS THAT REALLY THE ONLY QUESTION YOU WISH TO ASK OF ME, WARLOCK?

NO. HOW CAME ABOUT THIS RECENT DISRUPTION OF THE REALITY STREAM, TITAN?
IT WAS NOT MY DOING, AS YOU HAVE MOST LIKELY ALREADY SURMISED.
THE RUPTURE WAS CAUSED BY A MOST INTERESTING INTRUDER.
CAREFUL THANOS WOULD ALLOW A TRESPASSER INTO HIS PRECIOUS SANCTUM?
NO ORDINARY BURGLAR WAS THIS LADY, AS THIS SECURITY TAPE WILL SHOW.
LADY?
PRAY DO NOT CONTINUE TO PLAY THE INNOCENT WITH ME, WARLOCK. IT IS PROVING TEDIOUS.
BEHOLD MY TRESPASSER!
TELL ME, IS THERE NOT SOMETHING DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT HER FEATURES AND MOVEMENTS?
DEJA VU? HAVE WE NOT SEEN THIS WOMAN BEFORE?
OR PERHAPS MET ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE SAME BEING?

WELL?
SHE IS MY FEMININE, SUPPOSEDLY GOOD SIDE AND CALLS HERSELF THE GODDESS.
YOU DEFINITELY HAVE A TASTE FOR ABSURD NAMES, DON'T YOU?
WHATEVER SHE CALLS HERSELF, I HAVE THE FEELING SHE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH QUICKLY.
HER AMBITIONS COULD EASILY BE AS DEVASTATING AS THE MAGUS'S NEARLY REALIZED DREAMS WERE.
ON THIS ASSUMPTION I MUST AGREE.
I RETURN TO EARTH TO GATHER THE REST OF THE INFINITY WATCH.
IF YOU INSIST....
THEN ALLOW ME TO TELEPORT YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION, TO SAVE TIME.
I SHALL JOIN YOU ONCE CERTAIN MATTERS HAVE BEEN ATTENDED TO.
MATTERS SUCH AS WHAT?
ARMAMENT AND LOGISTICS.
THE USUAL?
EXACTLY.
WHEN SHOULD I EXPECT YOUR ARRIVAL ON MONSTER ISLAND?
ONCE I HAVE GARNERED MUCH-NEEDED INTELLIGENCE.
WITHIN THE WALLS OF WARLOCK'S CASTLE HEADQUARTERS...
JUST BE QUICK ABOUT IT, TITAN.

GAMORA?
MOON-DRAGON?
PIP?
WHERE HAS EVERYONE GOTTEN TO?
THAT BE BUT ONE OF THE QUESTIONS I NEED ANSWERS TO BEFORE I BEGIN ON THIS PERILOUS JOURNEY, MY GILDED ALLY.
FOR IT BE A TREK FROUGHT WITH DANGER TO BOTH MYSELF AND MY UNIVERSE.
BUT FOR AN ENTERPRISING SOUL SUCH AN ODYSSEY IS ALSO RIPE WITH POSSIBILITY.
THE KIND OF POSSIBILITY THANOS ALWAYS WELCOMES.
JOIN US IN 2 WEEKS AT WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #19 WHERE OUR STORY CONTINUES...
...AND CATCH US ONE WEEK LATER IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE #3...
...AND BACK HERE THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR-- DEALING WITH THE DEVIL!

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WARLOCK

AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER

WATCH

ALL RIGHT! WHO'S NEXT?

DIRECT EDITION

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TOM GRINDBERG '93

BEHAVIOR IS A MIRROR IN WHICH EVERYONE DISPLAYS HIS IMAGE. JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

TRUE BELIEVERS

WITHIN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF AVENGERS HEAD-QUARTERS...

GRAB THE LIL' SUCKER!

DON'T LET PIP GET AWAY!

YOU GUYS COULDN'T CATCH A COLD!

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GOT HIM!

DON'T GOT HIM!

WHERE'D HE GO?

HE TELE-PORTED UP ONTO THAT CABINET!

MAX, YOU TRAITOR!

GOTCHA--

OOOF!

NO WAY, ROGUE, ME DARLIN'!

NOT WHILE I CAN STILL GET OFF A LEFT HOOK WORTHY OF SPIDER-MAN!

IF WE CAN GET A GRIP ON HIM, HE CAN'T TELE-PORT WITHOUT TAKING US ALONG!

HE'S MINE!

KA-THUNK

WHERE'D HE GET OFF TO NOW??

TO THE KITCHEN TO SEE IF THE AVENGERS GOT A COUPLE'A TALL COOL ONES HIDDEN IN THE FRIDGE!

FIGURED THIS IS WHERE YOU'D HEAD ONCE YOU GOT TIRED OF TOYING WITH THE MUSCLE-HEADS.

UUP!

ANY TRICKS, AND I FIX THAT DEVIATED SEPTUM OF YOURS.

YOU READING ME, SQUIRT?

HEY, GANG, LOOK WHAT I CAUGHT!

HE'S JUST BARELY BIG ENOUGH NOT TO THROW BACK!

IT'S A DIRTY JOB BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT!

I'LL GO PREPARE THE TORTURE CHAMBER.

GREEN LADY, WHAT'S ALL THAT SPLASHIN' NOISE GOIN' ON OUT THERE?

PAY NO ATTENTION, DRAX. PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR STORY.

YEAH, SHE-HULK AND I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THIS GUY ALF.

PLEASE, NO MORE!

I JUST CAN'T TAKE NO MORE!

WOLVERINE, HOW'S HE SMELLING NOW?

I STILL THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TAKING PIP OUT OF THE SUIT BEFORE LAUNDERING IT!

PROBABLY, RAGE. BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANYWHERE NEAR AS FUN!

STILL PRETTY RIPE. GIVE HIM ANOTHER DUNKING.

HE'S NO LONGER BUBBLING! YOU GOT TO LET HIM UP, HULK!

IN A MINUTE OR TWO, KID.

HE'S PASSABLE.

GOOD.

OR MAYBE THREE.

NOW THAT PEE-WEE'S NOT STINKIN' THE PLACE UP, WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON SAVIN' OUR FRIENDS.

APPARENTLY, THERE'S MORE TO THIS SUPERHEROIN' THAN I FIGURED.

PERSONAL HYGIENE'S SOMEHOW INVOLVED.

THEY COULDN'T JUST DROP A FEW FRIENDLY HINTS, THOUGH, COULDN'T THEY?

NOT WHEN THEY CAN PLAY DROWN THE TROLL INSTEAD!

I THINK I'LL KILL 'EM ALL.

HALF A GALAXY AWAY FROM THE VENGEFUL MUTTERINGS OF A DRENCHED TROLL...

...A WORLD PREPARES TO DIE.

THE LEGENDARY DEVOURER OF PLANETS READIES A CELESTIAL BODY TO HIS TASTE.

MASTER GALACTUS, WHY DO YOU PAUSE AT THE BRINK OF GLORIOUS DESTRUCTION?

BECAUSE SOMETHING IS AMISS, MORG.

WHAT?

I AM NOT CERTAIN.

I DO SENSE PERIL UNIMAGINABLE.

BUT I CANNOT PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF THIS DISTRESS.

SOMETHING IS VERY CAREFULLY HIDING FROM MY PERUSAL.

AND BACK ON EARTH, ON MONSTER ISLAND, HEADQUARTERS OF THE INFINITY WATCH.

MOLE MAN, HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE THE REST OF THE WATCH HAS GOTTEN OFF TO?

I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST, WARLOCK.

BUT MY MOLOIDS REPORT THAT MR. FANTASTIC WAS ON THE PREMISES AND THERE WAS A BATTLE.

I MUST SAY THAT I FIND THIS NEWS MOST DISTURBING.

REED RICHARDS?

CURIOUS.

I DEEDED YOU THIS CASTLE TO BE USED AS YOUR HEADQUARTERS, NOT AS A GYM FOR SUPER-POWERED OVER-ACHIEVERS!

WHY DO YOUR PEOPLE KEEP KNOCKING HUGE HOLES IN THE WALLS?!

THIS IS NOT RIGHT, NOT RIGHT AT ALL!

THAT BIG OAF DRAX IS GOING TO BRING THE PLACE DOWN WITH THOSE CRAZY LANDING PRACTICES OF HIS.

THEN THERE WERE THOSE SHADOW THINGS AND MOO▪DRAGON TEARING DOWN ARCHWAYS!

AFTERWARDS, DO I SEE YOUR FOLKS OFFERING TO HELP REPAIR THE DAMAGES? NO!

NOW YOU HAVE THIS NEW BRUTE, MAXAM, AND MY MOLOIDS HAVE MORE WALLS TO FIX!

DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN'T FIND BETTER USES FOR MY MINDLESS MINIONS THAN TO HAVE THEM CONSTANTLY CLEANING UP AFTER YOU?

THE MOLE MAN IS THE SOVEREIGN OF A MIGHTY SUBTERRANEAN EMPIRE, NOT THE HEAD OF A JANITORIAL SERVICE!

FURTHERMORE, I WILL NOT HAVE REED RICHARDS POPPING IN AND OUT OF HERE--!

HE'S AN ENEMY OF MINE! I THINK HE'S OUT TO USURP MY POWER AND STEAL MY RICHES!

AND SPEAKING OF MY POWER...

...WHEN ARE WE GOING TO ANNOUNCE TO THE WORLD THAT THE MOLE MAN AND THE INFINITY WATCH ARE ALLIES?

PROMISES WERE MADE!

I SUGGEST WE POSTPONE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER UNTIL AFTER THE CURRENT CRISIS IS SETTLED SATISFACTORILY.

OF COURSE.

CRISIS?

WHAT CRISIS ?!?

WARLOCK, WHAT AREN'T YOU LETTING ME IN ON? AS YOUR ALLY, I SHOULD--

GOOD LORD!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THIS ROOM?!

THAT'S IT!!

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO JUST REPAIR THIS DAMAGE YOURSELF!!

MOLE MAN, DEPART IMMEDIATELY.

THAT MEANS NOW!

I MEAN, MY MOLOIDS WOULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO--

YES, OF COURSE.

JUST GOING.

SEE YOU LATER.

MANY LIGHT YEARS AWAY, IN THE DEPTHS OF SPACE, THEY WAIT.

THE CELESTIALS FEEL THE FLOW OF MYSTIC ENERGIES AND SENSE THEIR DIABOLICAL LEANINGS.

BUT FULL COMPREHENSION ELUDES THESE SPACE GIANTS AND THEY GRASP AT CONJECTURE.

ALL OF IT UNSETTLING.

AND SO THEY WAIT AND WONDER IF THIS UPCOMING COSMIC EVENT COINCIDES WITH OR CONFLICTS WITH THEIR OWN MYSTERIOUS PLANS.

ASTRAL GODS AND MAN ALIKE SPECULATE.

BACK AT AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK...

THE BLIND FOOLS.

LITTLE DO THEY SUSPECT THAT THEIR WORST NIGHTMARE WALKS AMONG THEM.

VENGEANCE IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD.

SPEAKING OF FOOD, THESE SANDWICHES SUCK.

MAXAM, YOU'VE PICKED UP ON THE USE OF THE AVENGERS' SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REMARKABLY QUICK.

IT SEEMED RATHER SIMPLE TO MASTER ONCE I TRIED OPERATING IT.

PERHAPS YOU HAD EXPERIENCE WITH SIMILAR GEAR BEFORE YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY?

MAYBE....

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH AMNESIA: FOR EVERY ANSWER YOU UNEARTH, A DOZEN MORE QUESTIONS TAKE ITS PLACE.

MAYBE WE CAN GIVE YOU A HAND IN FINDING THOSE LOST MEMORIES ONCE THIS BUSINESS WITH THE GODDESS IS SORTED OUT.

THAT'D BE GREAT.

SAY, VISION...

...DON'T I REMEMBER YOU POPPING ONTO THE SCENE WITH SOME PRETTY HEAVY MEMORY GAPS?

YES, CAUSED BY THE MACHINATIONS OF MY CREATOR, ULTRON 5.

GOOD LORD!

I PREFER THE TERM SYNTHETIC BEING.

YOU DON'T THINK I'M AN ANDROID, DO YOU??

WELL, I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE SURE-FIRE MEANS OF FINDING OUT.

SORRY ABOUT THE DISCOMFORT.

OUCH!

BLOOD--AND IT'S DEFINITELY HUMAN.

TERRIFIC.

I THINK THERE'D BE AN EASIER WAY...

UPON A NAMELESS PLANET LIGHT YEARS AWAY, THE SANCTUM OF THANOS OF TITAN.

IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT I HAVE LEARNED ALL I AM GOING TO FROM THESE BUFFOONS.

STILL, THIS NEWCOMER MAXAM DESERVES LATER CONSIDERATION.

I CANNOT ALLOW HIM TO DIVERT MY ATTENTIONS PRESENTLY, THOUGH.

MY FOCUS MUST BE TOTALLY ON THE GODDESS.

SHE MIGHT EASILY PROVE AS GREAT A THREAT TO MY UNIVERSE AS HER COUNTERPART, THE MAGUS, WAS.

THE LADY PLAYS WITH FORCES THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED IN THE WRONG HANDS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN SOLID DATA ON THIS GODDESS IS THROUGH THIS NEW PLANET SHE OBVIOUSLY CREATED.

I DISCOVERED IT WHILE TRACKING THE SOURCE OF THEN-MYSTERIOUS EMANATIONS MY INSTRUMENTALITY REGISTERED.

ESPECIALLY THE HANDS OF ONE WHO FANCIES HERSELF TO BE THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT IS GOOD.

COMPUTER CROSS-REFERENCING HAS NOW IDENTIFIED THESE ENERGIES.

LIKE THE MAGUS, THIS GODDESS UTILIZES COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS AS THE POWER BASE FOR HER ACTIVITIES.

I FIND THIS PECULIAR, SEEING AS HOW HER PREDECESSOR DISCOVERED THE UNITS AN UNRELIABLE TOOL.

THE GODDESS MUST BE AWARE OF THE LIMITS OF THE UNITS' USEFULNESS.

MANY HAVE PREVIOUSLY TRIED TO GAIN UNIVERSAL DOMINATION WITH THEM AND FAILED.

YET ONE MUST ASSUME THAT WARLOCK'S FEMININE SELF SHARES HIS SKILL AS A SCHEMER.

THE GODDESS WOULD NEVER PURSUE A TACTIC THAT WAS SO PREDESTINED TO FAILURE.

THUS, THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION I CAN REACH ON THIS MATTER IS THAT I AM MISSING THE POINT OF IT.

OBVIOUSLY I CANNOT PROPERLY FATHOM THE GODDESS'S INTENTIONS WITH THE MEAGER INTELLIGENCE--

--CURRENTLY AT MY DISPOSAL.

HER TRUE MOTIVATION ELUDES ME.

AND I'LL NOT UNEARTH IT SITTING AROUND SAFELY IN THIS LABORATORY.

NONE OF MY SPY PROBES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE HER PLANETARY DEFENSES.

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING ON THAT MUDBALL THE GODDESS DOES NOT WANT THE REST OF THE GALAXY TO WITNESS.

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY RESIST SUCH A CHALLENGE..?

I CAN'T.

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY WILL YET BE THE DOWNFALL OF ME.

HAVE ALL PREPARATIONS FOR MY DEPARTURE BEEN COMPLETED..?

Yes, sir.

CONTINUE TO MONITOR COM-FREQUENCY BC-7.

I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS THAT HEAVY-DUTY ARMAMENT MAY BE NEEDED IN THIS ENGAGEMENT.

HAVE STORAGE UNIT #D-666 POWERED UP AND READY FOR DELIVERY.

IN THE STILL OF THIS CHAMBER, MISTRESS DEATH SILENTLY CONGRATULATES HERSELF ON FOLLOWING THAT PARTICULAR HUNCH.

FOR FROM WITHIN THE WELL'S DEPTHS DEATH HAS DISCERNED ENOUGH OF THE PATTERN TO COMPREHEND THE GODDESS'S TRUE INTENTIONS!

THE SATISFACTION IS NEARLY OVER-WHELMING. THE PLEASURE OF BEING THE ONLY ONE TO UNDER-STAND IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

HA HA HA HA HA

A GLEAMING FIGURE CUTS THROUGH THE ETHER.

BUT ON THIS DAY THE SILVER SURFER IS NOT HIS OWN MAN.

TODAY HE IS THE THRALL OF RELIGIOUS FERVOR.

SISTER MOONDRAGON?

THE GODDESS WISHES YOU TO EXTEND YOUR NEXT CIRCUIT OF THIS SECTOR.

IT SHALL BE DONE!

HOW GOES IT, SISTER MOON-DRAGON?

ALL DEFENSIVE INSTALLATIONS ARE ON ALERT FOR TROUBLE, CAPTAIN, AND THE PATROL SWEEPS HAVE WIDENED.

THE GODDESS MAY PROCEED WITH HER HOLY WORK WITHOUT FEAR OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

I JUST DON'T KNOW.

IT SEEMS TO ME, BROTHER STRANGE, THAT WE'RE *ALIENATING* POTENTIALLY USEFUL ALLIES WITH THIS *ELITEST ATTITUDE* WE'RE DISPLAYING TO THE *UNIVERSE!*

BUT IT IS AS THE GODDESS HAS *ORDAINED.*

PRAISE THE GODDESS!

YOU HAVE *DOUBTS,* SISTER GAMORA..?

YES SISTER MOONDRAGON.

THANK YOU, SISTER MOON-DRAGON.

I NOW SEE THE ERROR OF MY WAYS. BLESS YOU.

IT IS NOT FITTING FOR A *MERE MORTAL* TO QUESTION *DIVINE GUIDANCE.*

I HUMBLY *BEG* YOUR *FORGIVENESS.*

I SHALL *DOUBT NO MORE!*

ALONG THE RING OF SATURN.

YONDER IS THE HOME OF MY FRIENDS, THE TITANS.

THEY ARE A RIGHTEOUS AND HIGHLY ADVANCED RACE OF BEINGS.

MENTOR AND EVEN EROS WOULD PROVE USEFUL ALLIES FOR THE GODDESS.

THEY COULD DO MUCH TO FURTHER EXTEND MY MISTRESS'S RENOWN.

IT IS MY DUTY AS A BELIEVER TO SHARE THE GLORY WITH THOSE TRULY WORTHY.

I FEEL CERTAIN MY FRIENDS WILL BE OVERJOYED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVERT.

IS NOT OUR END GOAL TO INVITE ALL SOULS INTO THE FLOCK?

MENTOR, EROS, HAVE YOU HEARD THE WORD?

HUH?

ENTRANCED, NEAR CATATONIC, AS ARE THE PEOPLE ON THE STREET.

WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?

COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE THE WORK OF...

SILVER SURFER, REPORT BACK TO PARADISE OMEGA AT ONCE.

YOUR GODDESS HAS NEED OF YOUR POWERS.

YES, SISTER MOONDRAGON.

QUESTIONS.

ONE MORE BURNING THAN ALL OTHERS.

WHY DID HE NOT ASK SISTER MOON-DRAGON ABOUT MENTOR ANDEROS'S CONDITION?

THESE GUYS ARE GETTIN' NOWHERE, FAST.

IT'S TIME FOR PIPMAN TO PUT HIS MANAGERIAL SKILLS TO SOME GOOD USE.

EARTH'S SUPER HEROES NEED A NEW DIRECTION.

AND THIS TROLL NEEDS MORE IN HIS BELLY THAN CUCUMBER SAND-WICHES.

YA KNOW, IRON MAN, EVERY-ONE WOULD PROBABLY THINK BETTER IF WE SENT OUT FOR PIZZA AN' BEER.

MAYBE LATER.

I MEAN, US ORGANIC TYPES GOT TO EAT TO KEEP OUR STRENGTH UP.

THERE ARE NUTRITIOUS SANDWICHES.

MAX, MAYBE IF WE--

NOT NOW, PIP.

FIRST RICHARDS USURPS MY POWER AS LEADER OF THE INFINITY WATCH!

THEN NOBODY LIKES MY NEW THREADS AND TRIES TO DROWN ME IN THEM!

NOW I CAN'T EVEN GET ANYONE TO GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY!

THIS IS HUMILI-ATING!

AND SOMEONE'S GOIN' TO PAY FOR THIS CRUDDY TREATMENT!

FIND OUT WHAT PIP'S NEFARIOUS PLANS ARE NEXT WEEK IN

THE INFINITY CRUSADE

#3!

THEN THE FOLLOWING WEEK CONTINUE TO TRACK OUR ADVENTURER IN

WARLOCK CHRONICLES

#3

AND JOIN US BACK HERE AT

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH

#20

~TWO WEEKS LATER FOR

KING PIP!

WATCHWORDS

Editor—Craig Anderson **Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust**
MARVEL COMICS GROUP—387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York—10016

Attention correspondents. All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request

Dear Craig and Lynaire,

With "Divisions" we finally got to see the many different forms of Adam Warlock confront one another and face the man that they all represent. No slugfests or villains, just a thought-provoking script by the man that guided Adam out of his four different incarnations. Now Starlin has blended all four together to make the definitive Warlock, highlighted by the return of Angel Medina's wonderful pencils. Starlin's script was 22 pages of classic cosmic madness. Little of INFINITY WATCH's trademark humor was in there (except for the hilarious words of the four Adams on page six of the story: "All things end. Why bother?"), but it was more of the old Jim Starlin shining.

Eternity once again figured prominently in the story, yet not as a villain or nemesis. Finally bringing Warlock out of his coma (a great venue to spotlight the Infinity Watch for the last few issues, by the way), Eternity was the guiding force behind Adam's reformation. No longer a suicidal-paranoid being, he is whole with all aspects of his personality. The soul-searching is hopefully over, yet Starlin better not lose any of his deep and meaningful prose. And when he does explore the semi-religious themes mentioned in MARVEL PREVIEW, I'm sure that none of it will be lost. Starlin has always walked the fine line between what's acceptable material and what isn't, so I'm happy to see him balance it all out.

As for Medina and Almond's artwork, "I'll be dipped in garlic butter." Angel really shines on his title, and I'd like to see more of his work during the INFINITY CRUSADE. His pencils definitely helped enliven the few humorous scenes, too. Colorist Ian Laughlin did another fine job, as did unsung hero, Jack Morelli.

Joey Marchese
PO Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083-2197

You'll be able to see plenty of Angel's work in the INFINITY CRUSADE crossovers, Joey. Just check out WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #20 and 22.

Dear Watchwords,

Warlock is phenomenal! Jim Starlin is so amazing with these characters! It isn't just another title of super-space titans beating the tar out of one another! The character development is wonderful! The plots and sub-plots which run through these pages are excellent! I have nothing but praise for Angel Medina's work in the mag. His artwork is among the best to ever appear in the pages of Marvel.

Scott Shaffer
3 Evergreen Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

C'mon, Scott, tell us how you *really* feel about the book.

Dear Craig and Lynaire,

As good as this title regularly is, issue #15 of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH was one of the best. No sooner do I ask for an exploration of Warlock's character than Jim Starlin delivers. Great issue, what with the look back into the various incarnations of Warlock over the years.

And best of all is the suggestion by Eternity that the threat of the Magus is greater than ever for Warlock. There's nothing like Adam debating the ramifications of his actions, and the character development that occurs when he does so, all because he fears he might someday become the Magus. There is a strong parallel between Warlock/Magus and Luke Skywalker, who also had to walk a fine line without succumbing to the dark side of the force. Such a struggle with one's dark side is one of the most intriguing and entertaining devices in literature. I look forward to future issues as this struggle is played out with our hero.

James Evans
6621 Sutton Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

Although there are similarities between Adam and Luke, Jim's been using the good/evil aspect in Warlock years before Star Wars hit the silver screen. Characters with no soul or self-doubt are usually very one-dimensional and no one can ever accuse Adam of that!

Dear Watchwords,

This is one of my favorite books. Why? It is *so different*. I have never read a team book like this before. Actually, *team* seems like too strong a word. It is more like a loose association of individuals who share two common traits: 1.) They each possess an Infinity Gem. 2.) They each have an allegiance (and history) with Adam Warlock. It's also most like the DEFENDERS of the 1970's.

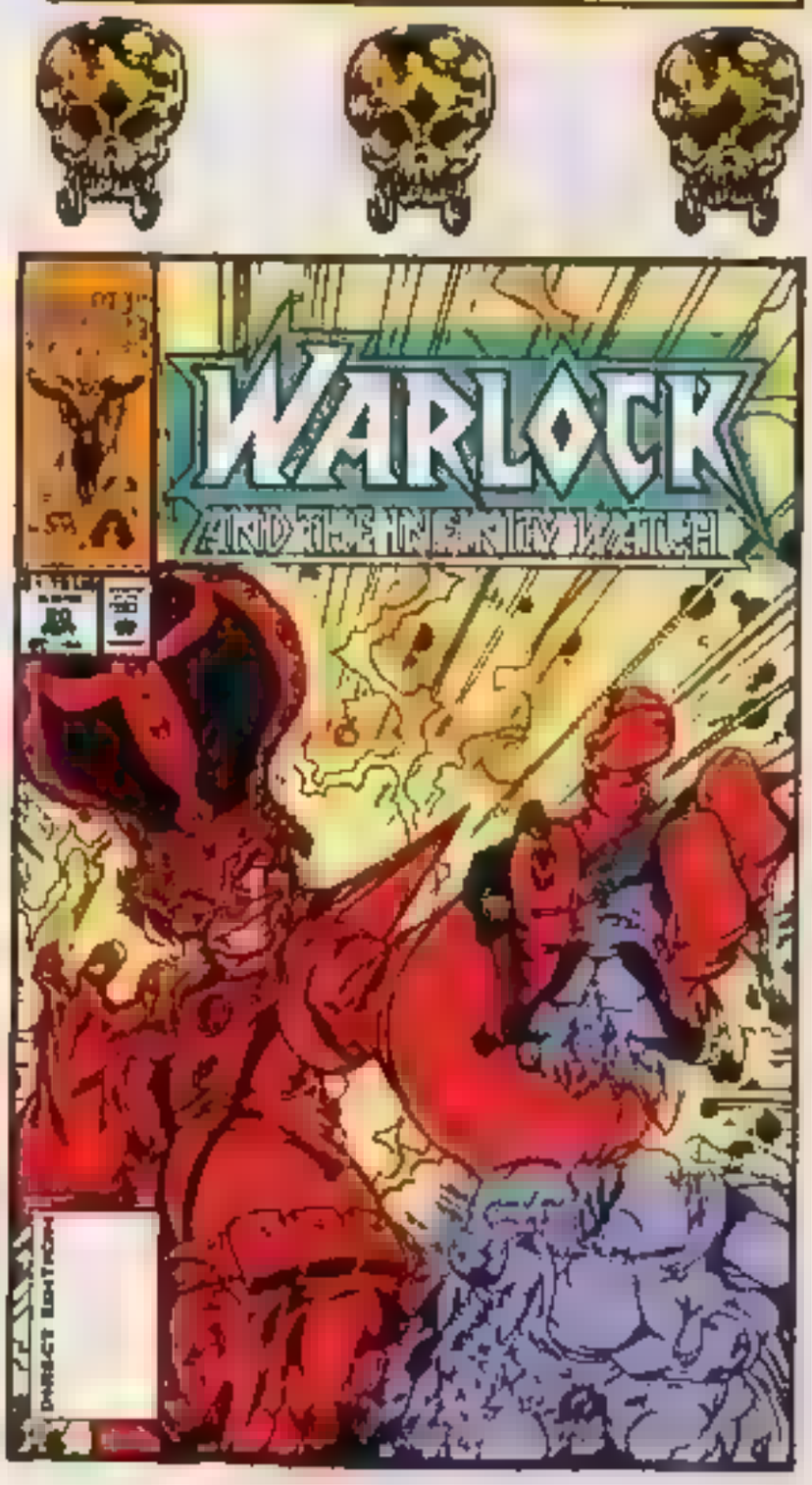
One of my favorite qualities of this book is the way Jim Starlin will spotlight a member and not make it seem like a filler issue. Jim has made the book progress so naturally since issue #1 that the entire run so far has a feeling of completeness. In other series, you are not losing anything missing a filler issue. With WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH, there are *no fillers*! (And this is healthier for you anyway.)

Thank you for producing a most offbeat and enjoyable book. I look forward to reading THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES.

Todd Adam Gross
4807 Palm
Bellaire, TX 77401

And thank you, Todd, for taking the time to write and let us know how you feel about ol' Warlock and the Watch.

NEXT ISSUE: Pip the Troll has taken control of the Cosmic Egg and has become King of the Universe! Will he take this opportunity to make the universe a true paradise, or will he allow his infantile power fantasies to run amok? Well, according to Pip, those could be the same thing! Be here!



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CURRENTS
CAGE'S HISTORY REVEALED
WHITE CROW STUDIOS BEATS OUT GAITIN FOR MOST POPULAR
CHICAGO SPECTATOR
LUKE CAGE KILLED HIS MOTHER
CHICAGO SPECTATOR
LUKE CAGE KILLED HIS MOTHER!
(DETAILS INSIDE)
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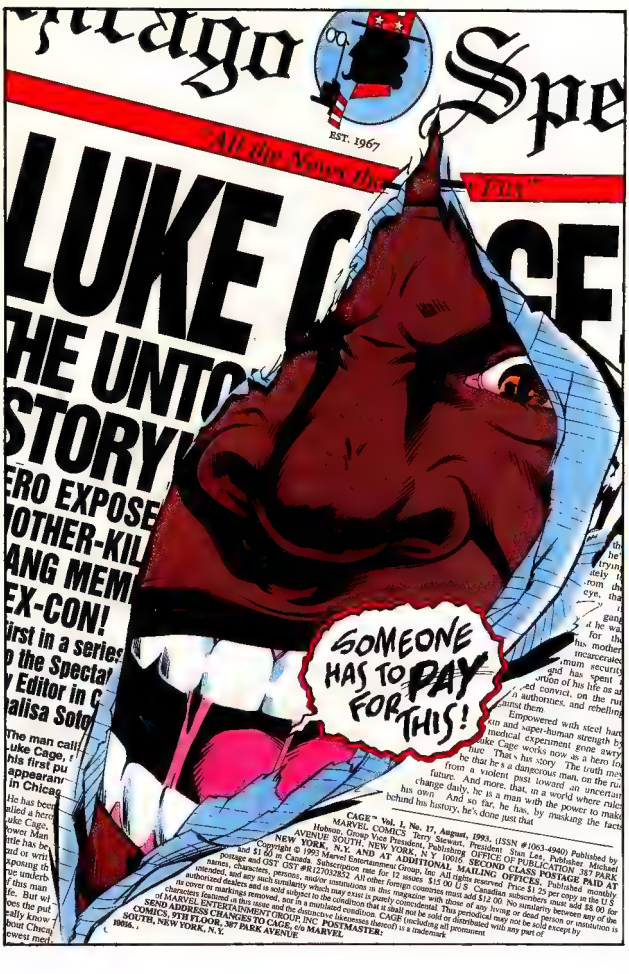

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The man call
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SOMEONE HAS TO PAY FOR THIS!
CAGE™ Vol. 1, No. 17, August, 1993. (ISSN #1063-4940) Published by MARVEL COMICS Terry Stewart, President Stan Lee, Publisher Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues $15.00 U.S. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. All other foreign countries must add $12.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. CAGE (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO CAGE, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

I'LL, UH...
I'LL JUST LEAVE DOSE WIT' YOU DEN...
Marc McLaurin Copy Proof
Scott Benefiel Photos
Frank Turner Ink Spreader
Richard Starkings Assisted by John Gambell Typesetting
Kelly Corvese Color Section
Chris Cooper City Editor
Tom DeFalco Horoscopes
HOW COULD SHE DO THIS?
MY PAPERS!
SHRKKK
WHAT THE DEVIL YOU DOING, Y'FOOL?!
STANDIN' UP FOR MY RIGHTS! FIGHTIN' THE POWER OF THE PRESS TO MESS OVER MY PRIVATE LIFE!
AND MAKING A MESS OF M'MORNING CHICAGO SPECTATOR DELIVERY!
Chicago
I'M JUST STARTING!
I'LL STOP THIS STORY IF I GOTTA SHRED EVERY SPECTATOR IN CHICAGO!

NOT LIKELY!
THIS PAPER'S A *NATIONAL* FELLA. *NATIONWIDE*, AN' I'M USUALLY *LAST* ON THE DELIVERY ROUTE HERE!
WHATEVER STORY'S THERE,IS *OUT* ALREADY.
ENQUIRING *MINDS KNOW*.
DEAL WITH IT.
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DEAL OVER SOME *CASH* T'PAY FOR THIS LITTLE CONFETTI PARADE!
I'M *LUKE CAGE*, BILL ME. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
AFTER I MAKE SOMEBODY ELSE PAY FOR THE MESS THEY'RE MAKIN' OUTTA MY LIFE!
LONG AS *SOMEBODY* PAYS --

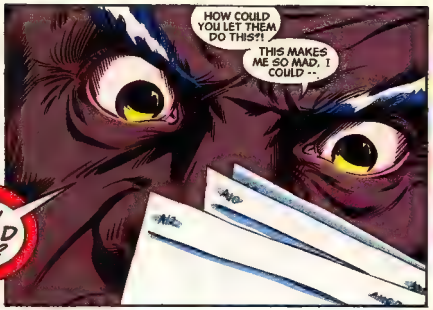
"THOUGH I'M BETTIN' IT'LL BE YOU."

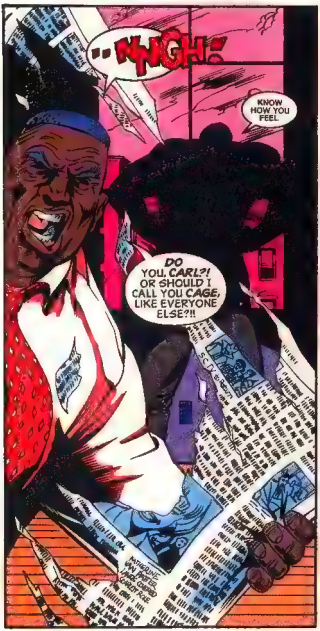
power to make
aking the facts
ear.

There are elements of his past Cage won't reveal even to his closest friends – if any can be considered close to the powerful loner. Born Carl Karl Lucas, in East Harlem, New York City, his early life was marred by extremes of gang violence which still plague many major cities today. Cage's involvement in this particularly violent gang's history was abruptly ended following the murder of Cage's mother, Esther Lucas, by one of his fellow gang members. Cage himself witnessed the murder, and was later brought up on charges revolving around the incident.

Mrs. Lucas had apparently been actively involved in trying to free her son from the grip of the gang. She apparently only succ
sacrifice of her life. Cage's famil
learn of Cage's involvement i
own mother. Cage's father,
retired police officer, was eng
the incident, and withdrew
Carl, moving in with his elde

As a result of this incident
protective of his father, to the
young Carl's repeated attempts t
But none of this was sufficient to
own new resolve to leave the gang life behind and start his life anew.





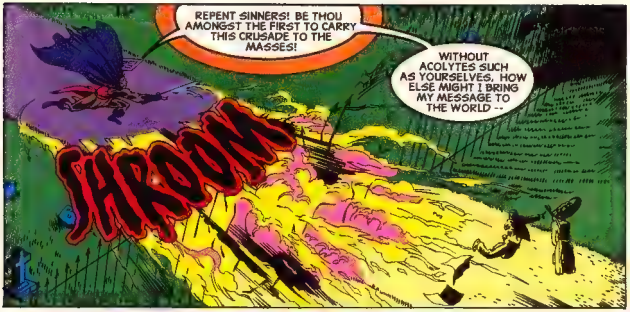
I FELT LIKE WE COULD START TO PUT THIS TRASH BEHIND US AND MAKE A REAL CHANGE!
THIS POWER YOU GOT, IT'S A CHANCE TO BE SOMETHING -- SOMEBODY TO MAKE ME PROUD!
YOU'VE GOT THE POSITION AND THE POWER TO AFFECT THE BLACK COMMUNITY 'ROUND THE WORLD!
BUT ONLY IF YOU KICK THE DIRT OF THIS RAG OFF YOUR HEELS --

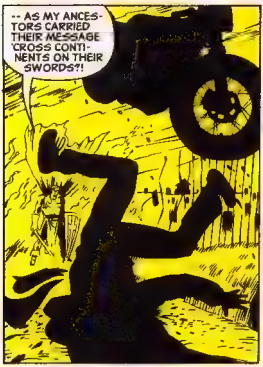
-- AND DROP THE MERCENARY LINE. THERE'S OTHER, BETTER WAYS TO USE --
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M ABOUT, POPS.
THE HERO-FOR-HIRE LINE BUYS ME RESPECT ON THE STREET. AND LETS FOLKS KNOW HOW TO REACH ME.
THE PAPER'S JUST ANOTHER TOOL TOWARDS THAT. TO HELP ME GET TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED ME ON EQUAL TERMS.
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR THE PAST...
...LIKE MA WANTED.
YEAH, FOR A PRICE, SON! IT'S THE PRICE YOU DON'T SEE THAT BOTHERS ME.
YOU WANT TO CONNECT, BUT ALL THESE STORIES DO IS PAINT YOU AS A COLD-HEARTED THUG!
WHAT GOOD HAS THIS PAPER DONE YOU? AND WHAT'S ITS COST?
YOU'RE ALREADY A SYMBOL, SON. YOU JUST GOTTA DECIDE --
-- WHAT ARE YOU GONNA STAND FOR?
I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, POPS --
KASH
I'M NOT GONNA STAND FOR THIS!

MONSTER TERMITES Y'ALL GOT AROUND HERE.
I MEAN, I HEARD OF PEEPHOLES BEFORE BUT--
TROOP!
MY GOD, I THOUGHT YOU WERE --
-- I MEAN, I THOUGHT --
I KNOW. I AIN'T DEAD.*
* AS CAGE WAS LED TO BELIEVE IN ISSUE #11. --CHRIS
BUT CHILL. I DIDN'T COME FOR NO SLOPPY REUNION.
I GOT IMPORTANT BUSINESS.
I'M HERE TO HIRE YOU, MAN. PROFESSIONAL-LIKE, Y'KNOW?
YOUNG'UN, MY BOY AIN'T RUNNIN' NO NICKEL-AND-DIME OPERATION NO MORE. CALL THE PO-LICE.
WHAT I'M RUNNIN' IS UP TO ME, POPS.
THIS IS WHAT I'M ABOUT -- HELPIN' ONE PERSON AT A TIME.
'CAUSE I AIN'T NO SYMBOL -- I'M JUST A MAN.
LOOK, LITTLE BROTHER, RIGHT NOW I GOT AN APPOINTMENT --
-- TO SHOW A CERTAIN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF THE MEANING OF THE WORDS BAD CHOICE.
KEEP AN EYE ON MY POPS TILL I GET BACK -- THEN WE'LL HAVE STUFF TO TALK ABOUT.
DEAL.

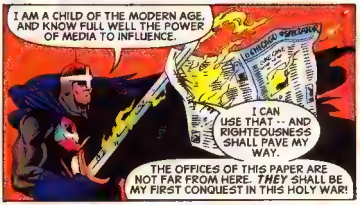
CANINDELEIN CEMETERY, OUTSIDE CHICAGO.
AN ACT OF VANDALISM IS UNDONE.
ALL I'M SAYIN' IS, IT'S FUNNY, RIGHT?
I MEAN, LAST NIGHT WE TRASH THIS PLACE. TODAY WE TURN AROUND AND FIX IT.
YEAH -- ALL I KNOW IS IT FEELS RIGHT TO DO THIS. I FEEL LIKE, HIGH, BUT, LIKE, PURE.
"EVER SINCE, LIKE, LAST NIGHT..."
"...LIKE I BEEN TOUCHED BY A SPIRIT OR SOMETHING."*
*SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #1 FOR DETAILS HE'LL NEVER KNOW. --CHRIS
GANGS ALL OVER THE CITY. THEY'RE TURNIN' AROUND, MAN.
WE KEEP THIS ATTITUDE, THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHERE THIS COULD GO.
CHOOM
TOO TRUE, HEATHENS
BUT THE ROAD TO HADES ITSELF IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
WHO THE --

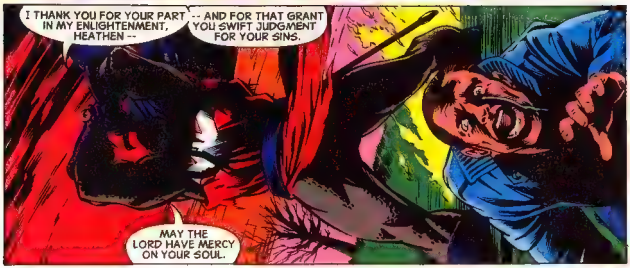
I AM THE HERALD OF A NEW AGE, CHILD --
AND YOU POOR SINNERS ARE THE SOLE WITNESSES TO --
--THE SECOND COMING OF THE CRUSADER!
A DIVINE INSPIRATION HAS RENEWED MY BELIEF -- AND MY RIGHTEOUS POWER!*
*LOST BACK IN THOR #331 -CHRIS
AND NOW YOUR DAY OF JUDGMENT IS AT HAND!
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AGE, CHILD -- PRESAGED BY A NEW CRUSADE WHICH WILL LEAVE NO ONE UNTOUCHED!
AN ANGEL WITH THE BEAUTY OF A GODDESS HAS REVEALED TO ME MY PART IN IT AS HOLY CRUSADER --
-- FLAMING SCYTHE TO THE UNHOLY! A HERALD OF THE TRUE WORD!
SHRAKT


REPENT SINNERS! BE THOU AMONGST THE FIRST TO CARRY THIS CRUSADE TO THE MASSES!
WITHOUT ACOLYTES SUCH AS YOURSELVES, HOW ELSE MIGHT I BRING MY MESSAGE TO THE WORLD --
KROOM


-- AS MY ANCESTORS CARRIED THEIR MESSAGE ACROSS CONTINENTS ON THEIR SWORDS?!

"AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU."
OF COURSE

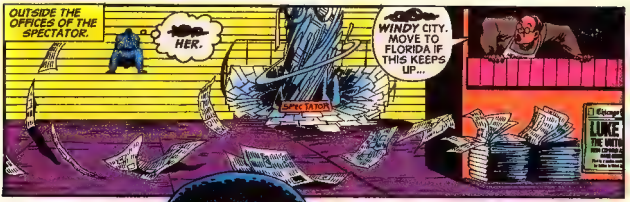

I AM A CHILD OF THE MODERN AGE, AND KNOW FULL WELL THE POWER OF MEDIA TO INFLUENCE.
I CAN USE THAT -- AND RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL PAVE MY WAY.
THE OFFICES OF THIS PAPER ARE NOT FAR FROM HERE. THEY SHALL BE MY FIRST CONQUEST IN THIS HOLY WAR!


I THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN MY ENLIGHTENMENT, HEATHEN --
-- AND FOR THAT GRANT YOU SWIFT JUDGMENT FOR YOUR SINS.
MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL.

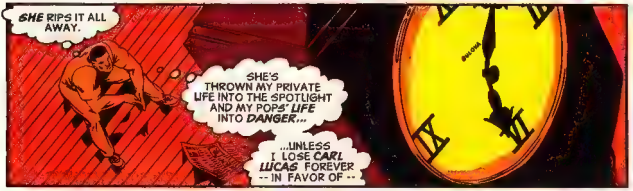
THE OFFICES OF THE CHICAGO SPECTATOR.
OH, IT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO GET UGLY. I EXPECT THAT.
BUT HE'S GOING TO SELL COPY, AS DREWSTON WANTED. AND HE'S THE BOSS.
BE CAREFUL WITH CAGE, ANA. HE'S DANGEROUS -- AND YOU'RE A LOT MORE TO ME THAN JUST AN IN WITH THE PRESS.
FUNNY. YOU MUST ROLL THEM IN THE AISLES AT CITY HALL, COUNCIL-MAN CREED.
LOOK, RANDY, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. I HAVE CAGE JUST WHERE I WANT HIM.
NOW, I'VE GOT TO GO -- I'M EXPECTING COMPANY. BYE, HON.
KLIK!
NOK NOK
JASPER, I ASKED FOR NO DISTURBAN--
KRAKT
YOU AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY WITH THIS GARBAGE!
IT'S ALL FACTUAL, CAGE, AND YOU KNOW IT.
YOUR INNUENDO ISN'T! AND MY LIFE'S PRIVATE!
OH? CHECK OUT TOMORROW'S EDITION.
headline comp for A. Madina approval
YOU'RE NEWS, CAGE. LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'VE BECOME A SYMBOL.
I AIN'T NO--
WE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT -- WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR COOPER-ATION.
AND THE DEVIL WITH WHO GETS HURT IN THE PROCESS?
YOU'RE COLD, LADY.
PERFECT. THESE EXPOSÉS ARE WORKING LIKE A CHARM.
DREWSTON MAY NOT LET ME FIRE YOU -- BUT I CAN STILL MAKE YOU SO MAD, YOU'LL QUIT!

ELSEWHERE...
I'VE CALLED THIS UNUSUAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO CONFRONT A PROBLEM PLAGUING OUR CITY.
THANKS A LOT, ANA...
THESE UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS OF A SERIAL KILLER STALKING THE HOMELESS MUST BE ADDRESSED.
...MY CANCER MUST BE WORRYING YOU MORE THAN I THOUGHT...
...FOR YOU TO GIVE MICKY HAMILTON SUCH A BOZO ASSIGNMENT.
I SAY, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY "HOMELESS STALKER."
HOWEVER, THE CONTROVERSY HAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT THE GROWING HOMELESS PROBLEM IN THIS CITY, WHICH I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS...
YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, COUNCILMAN? ADDRESS THE OPPRESSED!
WHAT'RE WE, INVISIBLE TO YOU, EXCEPT AS A CAMPAIGN PLATFORM?
WE'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED, AND YOU WON'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE IT!
I DON'T WANNA KNOW YOUR STAND ON THE HOMELESS, COUNCILMAN CREED --
-- I'M TIRED OF BEING STOOD ON AT ALL!
PTOO
AWRIGHT, COOL OFF, BOYO!
LET'S GO FOR A LITTLE WALK, SORRY, COUNCILMAN.
NOW KEEP CLEAR UNTIL THE COUNCILMAN AND THE REPORTERS'VE GONE!
WHUMP
CLICK CLICK CLICK
THIS'S THE STUFF OF WHICH FRONT PAGES ARE MADE!

SHOULDN'T GO OFF HALF-COCKED LIKE THAT. I'VE GOT LITTLE GRACE TO THINK ABOUT... MY LITTLE GIRL.
HOPE SHE DIDN'T SEE --
YOU DON'T SPIT IN THE FACE OF YOUR BETTERS, CRETIN!
SUCH PRESUMPTION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
REEEECH
EEEYAHHH
BOOST
OH MY G--
CLICK CLICK CLICK
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP THAT MAN!
HELP
WHAT'RE YOU CATERWALLIN' AB --
-- AW, SHOOT CHARLIE. WE GOT ANOTHER ONE
GET THE COUNCILMAN OUTTA HERE. NOW!
"THE LESS HE'S CONNECTED TO THIS MESS, THE BETTER."
THAT'S MY MESSAGE HERE TODAY
THIS HOMELESS PROBLEM ISN'T ONE WE CAN OR SHOULD TOLERATE
IT'S A CANCER THAT CAN BE ELIMINATED, ONE PERSON AT A TIME, WITH EACH OF US DOING HIS OR HER PART...
...WHATEVER THAT PART MIGHT BE.


OUTSIDE THE OFFICES OF THE SPECTATOR.
HER.
WINDY CITY. MOVE TO FLORIDA IF THIS KEEPS UP...
SPECTATOR
LUKE
THE HERO

I AIN'T NO BLASTED SYMBOL NO ROLE MODEL.
SHOOT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM -- OR WHO.
CHANGED MY NAME AFTER MY ESCAPE TO STAY FREE. ONLY KEPT IT AFTER I WAS CLEARED OUTTA GUILT OVER MY POPS' "DEATH."
NOW THAT I FINALLY GOT POPS BACK, AND I'M THINKING ABOUT RECLAIMING MY NAME...


SHE RIPS IT ALL AWAY.
SHE'S THROWN MY PRIVATE LIFE INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AND MY POPS' LIFE INTO DANGER...
...UNLESS I LOSE CARL LUCAS FOREVER -- IN FAVOR OF --

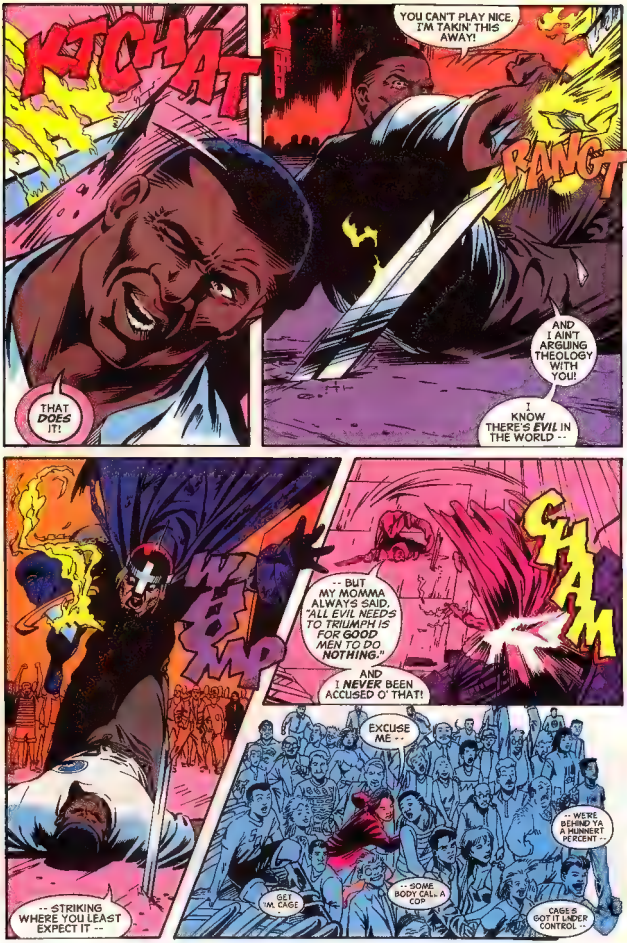
IT IS YOUR OHBARBARA. IT IS HIM!! I OLD YOU IT WAS!
Huh?

OH! READ YOUR STORY IN THE SPECTATOR TODAY --
-- INSPIRING LIFE--
OVER COMING SUCH ODDS --
-- YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE --?
-- AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL --
MY PHONE NUMBER YOU JUICY PIECE OF --
SON WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE YOU --

MEBBE MIAMI.
OR SOMEWHERE QUIETER, LIKE
KRAKAKK
KURRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
...WACO, TEXAS...
"WHEN THE MAN CAME INTO THE CITY AND TOLD THE NEWS. ALL THE CITY CRIED OUT." SAMUEL I, VERSE NINE.
HO, SPECTATOR!
THY NEW MASTER'S COME, TO BEND THE WILL OF THE WORLD AT HIS KNEE. ON THE EVE OF THE FINAL HOLY WAR!
ALL YE HEATHENS STAND ASIDE, AND COUNT THYSELVES BLESSED AMONGST THE CONVERTED
-- OR FALL AMONGST THE RANKS OF THE CURSED!

YOU MUST BE NEW IN TOWN.
WHO ARE YOU TO STAND WHERE OTHERS FLEE? BE YE CHALLENGER OR FOOL?
WAIT -- I RECOGNIZE THEE AS THE CHAMPION OF THIS DEN OF LIES! THOU WOULDST DEFEND THIS PAPER?
I WOULDN'T DEFEND THIS PAPER FROM A LIGHT RAINFALL --
-- BUT YOU GOT NO CALL TO STORM MIDTOWN HALF-COCKED! COOL YOUR JETS, GALAHAD!
I HAVE A CALLING!
IT'S BROUGHT ME HERE TO MAKE USE OF THIS PAPER'S POWER IN THE GREAT WAR TO COME!
MY CALLING AND FAITH FEED MY FERVOR, EMPOWERING MY FLAMING SWORD --
-- WHOSE RIGHTEOUS EDGE CUTS ALL ADVERSITY -- FROM HOT-BLOODED FOOLS --
--TO COLD SOLID STEEL!

HOW'D YOU DO -- AAAARGH!
KNG
NO MORE QUESTIONING!
'TWAS UNQUESTIONING FAITH BROUGHT THE VISION OF MY DESTINY TO SERVE AS MY ANCESTORS DID -
-- A CRUSADER FOR WORLDWIDE CONVERSION, USING THE WEAPON OF FAITH TO CHANGE THE WORLD!
I ALLOWED THE CURSED THUNDERER, THOR TO WEAKEN THAT RESOLVE -- TO QUESTION MY WILL AS INTOLERANCE --
-- BUT NO MORE!*
I BLAME THEE NOT FOR THINE IGNORANCE! I'LL PRAY FOR THY SOUL --
-- BUT JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT POWER DON'T MAKE YOU HIS AGENT!
THAT... HURT!
GALAHAD, ALL I BEEN THROUGH, I KNOW THERE'S A GOD --
* SEE THOR #330. -- CHRIS


KTCHAT
YOU CAN'T PLAY NICE, I'M TAKIN' THIS AWAY!
RANG-T
THAT DOES IT!
AND I AIN'T ARGUING THEOLOGY WITH YOU!
I KNOW THERE'S EVIL IN THE WORLD --
WHOMP
-- BUT MY MOMMA ALWAYS SAID, "ALL EVIL NEEDS TO TRIUMPH IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING."
AND I NEVER BEEN ACCUSED O' THAT!
CHAM
EXCUSE ME --
-- WE'RE BEHIND YA A HUNNERT PERCENT --
-- STRIKING WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT --
GET 'IM, CAGE
-- SOME BODY CALL A COP
CAGE-S GOT IT UNDER CONTROL --

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS CAGE GUY, TONY? HE'S A MERCENARY, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
NAW, HE'S A HERO FOR HIRE -- LIKE MY UNCLE VIN. THE COP!
YOU GONNA DIS HIM FOR GOING UP AGAINST SCUM WITH GUNS ALL DAY, 'CAUSE HE DOES IT FOR A PAYCHECK?
WHATEVER TRASH THE PAPER WROTE, CAGE'S STILL ONE'A US.
WELL, ANA, YOU REALLY SHOT YOURSELF IN THE FOOT ON THIS ONE.
THIS CITY LOVES THE HERO MORE, FOR HIS FEET OF CLAY.
I BUILT HIM UP INTO A SYMBOL OF HOPE FOR THESE PEOPLE. AND I'M ABOUT TO BRING HIM DOWN.."
CAGE! CAGE! CAGE! CAGE! CAGE!
I WANTED MY STORY TO FORCE CAGE TO QUIT WITHOUT IT COSTING MY JOB --
-- AND INSTEAD GAVE THIS CITY THE BIGGEST SHOT AT SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN SINCE THE BEARS IN '85.
CAGE! CAGE! CAGE! CAGE!
DICTATING WHO TO BELIEVE IN -- I'M NO BETTER THAN THAT PSYCHO.
THIS CITY NEEDS CAGE. AS A NEWSWOMAN, I'VE GOT TO REALIZE THAT.
AS A BUSINESSWOMAN, I'VE GOT TO ACCEPT IT.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT.
SHUT UP.
SILENCE!!
CAGE! CAGE! CAGE!

CAGE! CAGE! CAGE! CAGE! CAGE! CAGE!
FOOLS! HEATHENS! BLASPHEMERS!
HAVE YOU ALL TURNED YOUR FACES FROM GOD?
AIEEEEEEEEE!
PEOPLE STILL BELIEVE, SARDINE.
BUT THEY GET THEIR BELIEF FROM THE SOURCE, NOT SOME TWISTED INTERPRETATION LIKE YOURS!
WREECH
YEAH. DON'T PREACH TO US, Y'MANIAC!
MEN'VE DONE EVIL IN THE NAME OF GOD SINCE BEFORE THE CRUSADES, BUDDY! DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT!
YOU'RE THE HERETIC!
WE'RE BEHIND YA, CAGE!
NO. I AM GOD'S WILL.
I'LL MAKE YOU ALL SEE THAT --

-- IF I MUST VISIT HIS JUDGMENT UPON THEE MYSELF!
WHAKSH
YOU'LL VISIT THE HOSPITAL FIRST, GALAHAD!
YOU CAN'T BEND GOD INTO YOUR PRIVATE IMAGE --
-- AND YOU CAN'T FORCE YOUR BELIEFS ON PEOPLE!
THAT'S WHAT FAITH'S ALL ABOUT, MAN!
FHWOOM
YOU'VE SHATTERED MY SWORD! MY POWER -- GONE -- HOW?!
BEATS THE HECK OUTTA ME.
NO! I AM GOD'S CHOSEN--!
WE'RE ALL GOD'S CHOSEN, ACE
I JUST HOPE YOU TAKE THE TIME TO FIGURE THAT OUT.
I JUST PRAY...

ROLL IT!
MR. CAGE. WOULD YOU COMMENT, IN RELATION TO TODAY'S SPECTATOR ARTICLE --
-- EXPOSING YOUR HOME TO PUBLIC REVIEW.
EXPLORING YOUR FATHER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD
-- TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MOTHER --
-- STAND ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR, IN LIGHT OF --
RACISM WITHIN THE PARA NORMAL COMMUNITY -
LOOK, I'D LOVE TO TALK, BOYS, BUT I GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS --
-- REVEAL YOUR FULL HISTORY TO THE PUBLIC
"-- AND AN EXCLUSIVE MESSAGE T'DELIVER."
MEDINA, WE GOTTA TALK.
NOTHING LEFT TO SAY, CAGE. YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK.
WHAT --?
SUDDEN ATTACK OF INTEGRITY. DON'T RUB IT IN. YOU'RE FREE.
Chicago Spectator
POWER PASSI
YEAH, RIGHT. LOOK, YOUR STORY WASN'T ALL TRASH. OPENED MY EYES.
MY POPS SAID IT - LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M IN THE SPOTLIGHT, IN A POSITION TO AFFECT THINGS
BUT THE FOLKS OUTSIDE SHOWED ME I NEED SOME KINDA CONTROL OVER WHAT'S WRITTEN ABOUT ME.
IF I WANNA HAVE SOME SAY IN PEOPLE KNOWIN' WHAT I STAND FOR, I NEED THE OUTLET THE SPECTATOR GIVES.
WITH MICKY CUTTING BACK WITH HIS SICKNESS, I'LL NEED SOME ONE TO COVER MY STORIES
SO IF YOU WANT ME, I WANT YOU.

BUT I DONT -- IT'S NOT MY --
-- ALL RIGHT. YOU'VE GOT A DEAL.
"I HOPE YOU CHOKE ON IT."
THE SHANTY TOWN.
HER NAME IS GRACE. SHE'S HAD A BAD DREAM.
AN UNDERSTANDABLE REACTION. AFTER SEEING HER FATHER BRUTALLY SLAIN THIS AFTERNOON BY A THING WITH NO FORM --
-- A THING WHICH THE POLICE CLAIM DOES NOT EXIST.
SHE HASN'T SPOKEN A WORD SINCE THEN. SHE'S MUTE. SHE'S HOMELESS. NOW SHE'S AN ORPHAN. TOO...
BUT SHE'S NOT ALONE.
EASY, BABY. LOOKIN' FOR YOUR DADDY AGAIN?
YOU KNOW HE'S... GONE AWAY, GRACE.
AND WE KNOW YOU SAW WHO DID IT. DIDN'T YOU, SWEET-HEART?
DON'T BE AFRAID. THE BOGEYMAN WON'T GET YOU.
Y'OLD BUDDY DRED AND MY POSSE -- WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE'LL CATCH US A KILLER...
NEXT:
CAGE'S LIFE HAS BEEN CHANGED FOREVER -- BUT THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!
ALL BETS ARE OFF AS CAGE STARTS DOWN THE ROAD TO BECOMING THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!
DON'T MISS
the DARK SAVING GRACE!

MARVEL COMICS
THE INFINITY CRUSADE
$2.50 US
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IF YOU WANT TO STOP THE GODDESS...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME!
DIRECT EDITION
00311
MEPHISTO, WARLOCK & THANOS--
THE UNHOLY TRINITY!

FAITH: BELIEF WITHOUT EVIDENCE IN WHAT IS TOLD BY ONE WHO SPEAKS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, OF THINGS WITHOUT PARALLEL. --AMBROSE BIERCE.

I AM THE... Watcher!
MY CHOSEN TASK IS TO OBSERVE AND RECORD UNIVERSAL HAPPENSTANCE AS IT OCCURS.
MY BURDEN IS THAT I AM BOUND NEVER TO INTERFERE IN THE MAKING OF SUCH HISTORY.
BUT I SEE NO REASON WHY I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN WHILE I NOW REVIEW WHAT DATA I HAVE THUS FAR GATHERED ON THE ENTITY KNOWN AS THE
Godolgos

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WITHIN A SPECTACULAR HIDEAWAY ON THE SURFACE OF EARTH'S MOON, THE MYSTERIOUS WATCHER RECEIVES THREE RATHER UNUSUAL GUESTS: REED RICHARDS, IRON MAN AND THE VISION.

The DAMNED

THE GODDESS APPEARS TO BE BROADCASTING A UNIQUE WAVE-LENGTH OF TELEPATHIC ENERGY ACROSS THE LENGTH OF THE GALAXY.

SHE OPERATES ON A FREQUENCY EVEN I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH.

BUT THE EFFECTS OF THE EMANATIONS ARE CLEARLY APPARENT.

I WAS ENGAGED IN STUDYING THIS ARMED CONFLICT WHEN THE GODDESS'S EMISSIONS FIRST BECAME EVIDENT.

THOSE ARE SHI'AR AND SKRULL WARRIORS SKIRMISHING.

I RECOGNIZE THE SPACE SECTOR.

THIS BATTLE'S TAKING PLACE A GOOD THIRTY LIGHT YEARS FROM HERE.

TOOK PLACE.

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INKER

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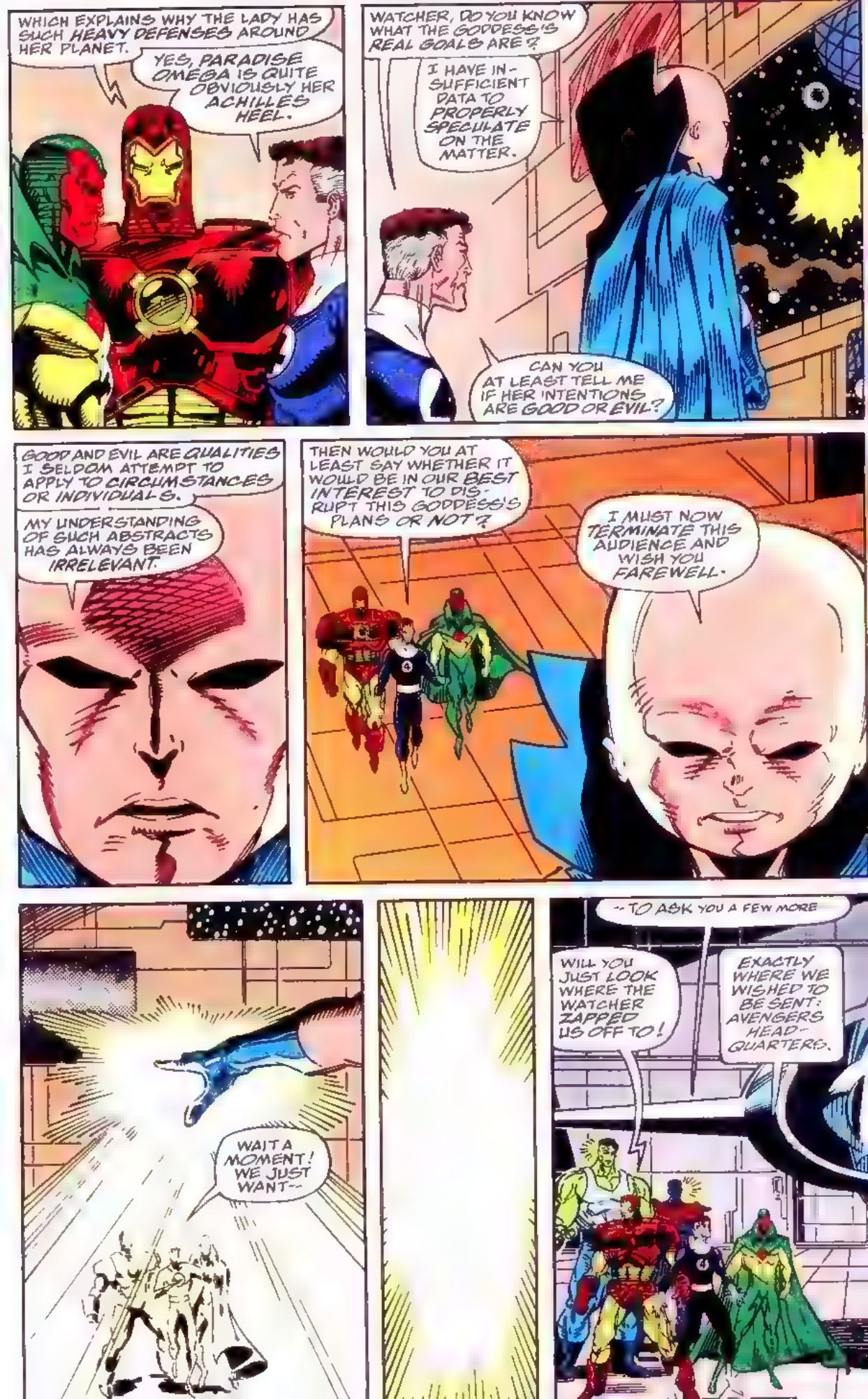
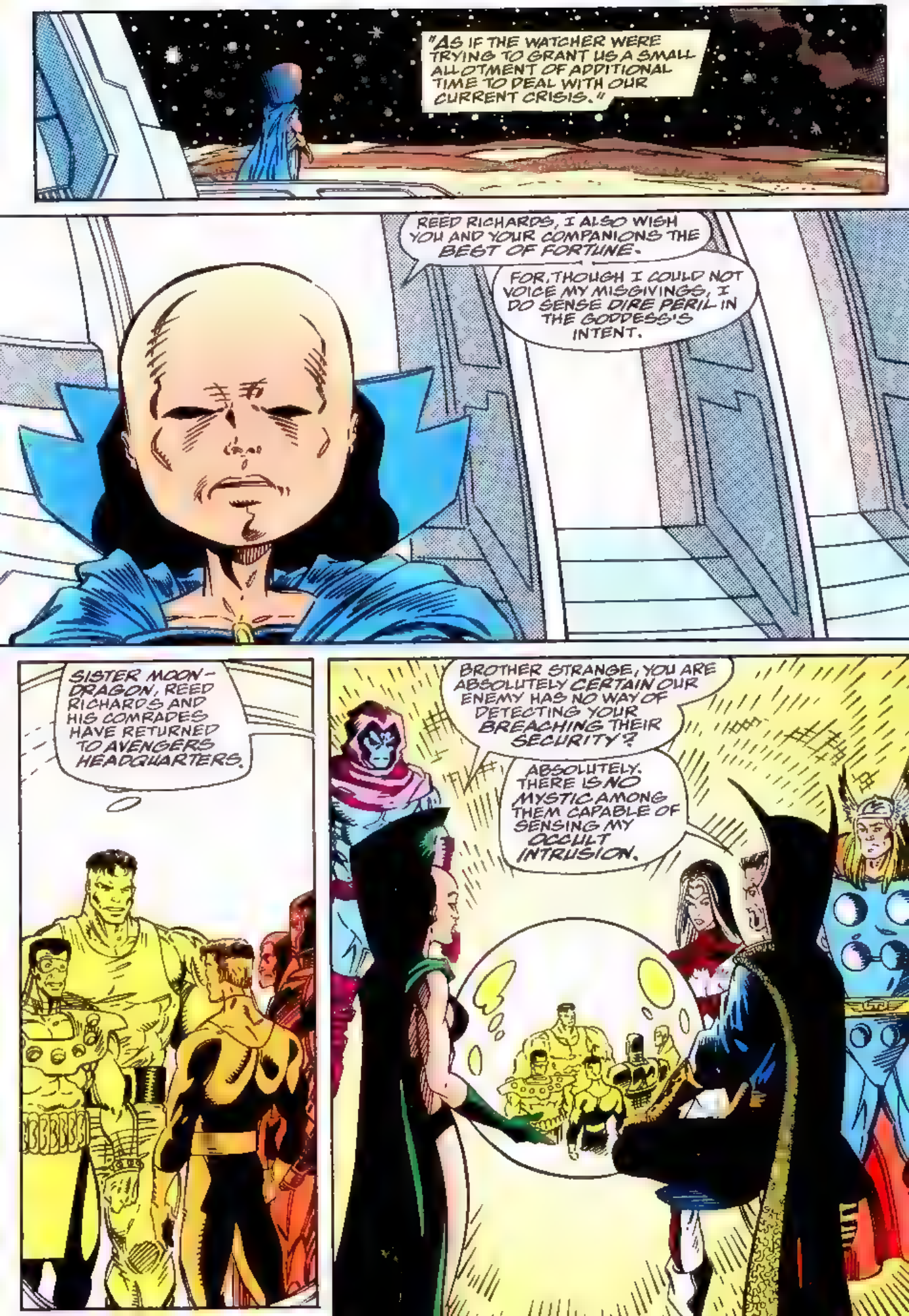
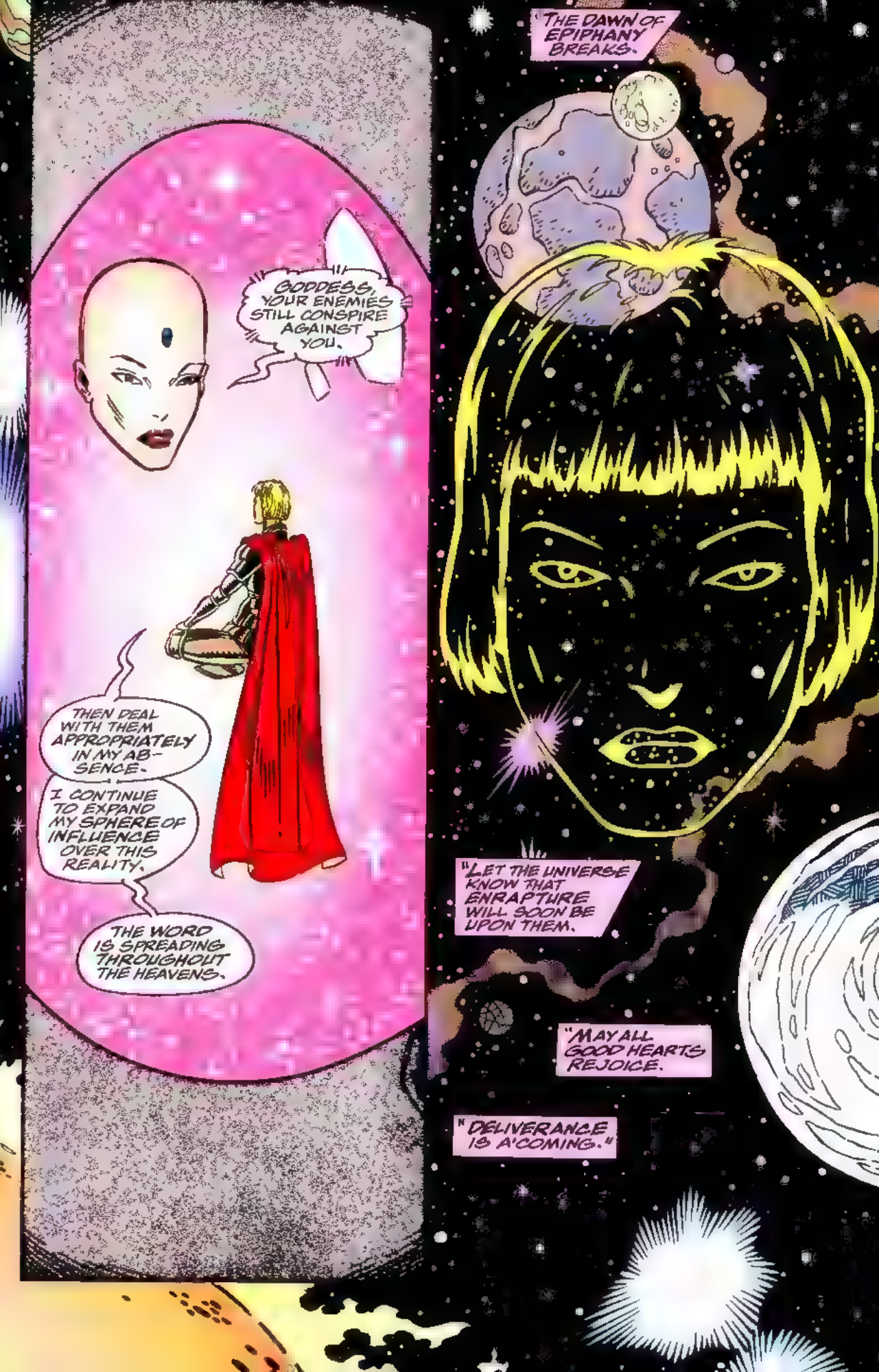
CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
CHIEF

THE PSYCHIC WAVES WASHED OVER THIS SCENE SOME THREE EARTH HOURS AGO.
AMAZING! YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE THE CHANGE COMING OVER THEM!
THEY'RE BEING BRAIN-WASHED, AREN'T THEY?
THE TERM CONVERTED MIGHT PROVE MORE ACCURATE.
MY INSTRUMENTATION THEN RECORDED MARKED ALTERATIONS IN THE BRAIN-WAVE ACTIVITY OF ALL PRESENT AT THIS EVENT.
THEY JUST STOPPED IN MID-BATTLE AND HEADED HOME?? INCREDIBLE!
SCARY.
THE GODDESS SEEMS TO BE BRINGING MUCH-NEEDED PEACE TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
BY TAMPERING WITH EVERY-ONE'S MIND.
I TAKE IT YOU DON'T APPROVE?
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHY NONE OF US SEEMS TO BE TURNING INTO A LOVE ZOMBIE?
GIVEN HALF A CHANCE I'D STILL REPULSOR-BLAST THIS "GODDESS".
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE GODDESS'S TRANSMISSIONS ARE LONG-RANGED IN NATURE.
EARTH AND ITS MOON MUST BE TOO CLOSE TO THE SOURCE OF THE TRANS-MISSION TO BE AFFECTED.


WHICH EXPLAINS WHY THE LADY HAS SUCH HEAVY DEFENSES AROUND HER PLANET.
YES, PARADISE OMEGA IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY HER ACHILLES HEEL.
WATCHER, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE GODDESS'S REAL GOALS ARE?
I HAVE INSUFFICIENT DATA TO PROPERLY SPECULATE ON THE MATTER.
CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL ME IF HER INTENTIONS ARE GOOD OR EVIL?
GOOD AND EVIL ARE QUALITIES I SELDOM ATTEMPT TO APPLY TO CIRCUMSTANCES OR INDIVIDUALS.
MY UNDERSTANDING OF SUCH ABSTRACTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN IRRELEVANT.
THEN WOULD YOU AT LEAST SAY WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO DISRUPT THIS GODDESS'S PLANS OR NOT?
I MUST NOW TERMINATE THIS AUDIENCE AND WISH YOU FAREWELL.
WAIT A MOMENT! WE JUST WANT--
--TO ASK YOU A FEW MORE
WILL YOU JUST LOOK WHERE THE WATCHER ZAPPED US OFF TO!
EXACTLY WHERE WE WISHED TO BE SENT: AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.


"AS IF THE WATCHER WERE TRYING TO GRANT US A SMALL ALLOTMENT OF ADDITIONAL TIME TO DEAL WITH OUR CURRENT CRISIS."
REED RICHARDS, I ALSO WISH YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS THE BEST OF FORTUNE.
FOR, THOUGH I COULD NOT VOICE MY MISGIVINGS, I DO SENSE DIRE PERIL IN THE GODDESS'S INTENT.
SISTER MOON-DRAGON, REED RICHARDS AND HIS COMRADES HAVE RETURNED TO AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
BROTHER STRANGE, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OUR ENEMY HAS NO WAY OF DETECTING YOUR BREACHING THEIR SECURITY?
ABSOLUTELY. THERE IS NO MYSTIC AMONG THEM CAPABLE OF SENSING MY OCCULT INTRUSION.


GODDESS, YOUR ENEMIES STILL CONSPIRE AGAINST YOU.
THEN DEAL WITH THEM APPROPRIATELY IN MY ABSENCE.
I CONTINUE TO EXPAND MY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE OVER THIS REALITY.
THE WORD IS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.
THE DAWN OF EPIPHANY BREAKS.
"LET THE UNIVERSE KNOW THAT ENRAPTURE WILL SOON BE UPON THEM.
"MAY ALL GOOD HEARTS REJOICE.
"DELIVERANCE IS A'COMING."

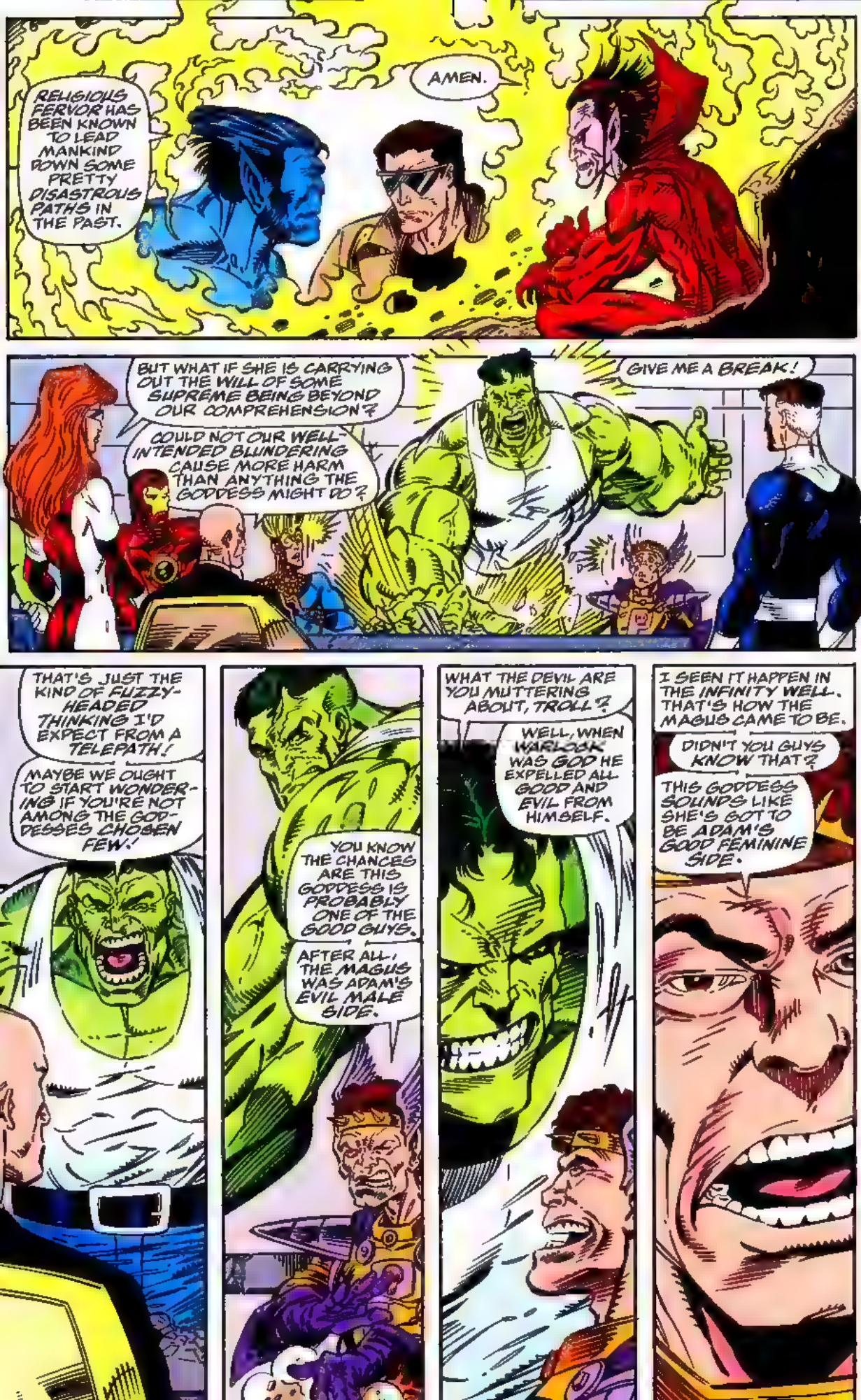
UPON THE THRONE WORLD OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE...
THE STARJAMMERS HEPZIBAH AND RAZA.
COMMUNICATIONS HAS LOST ALL CONTACT WITH THE FOURTH BATTALION.
BAD NEWS. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE...
...HAPPENED?

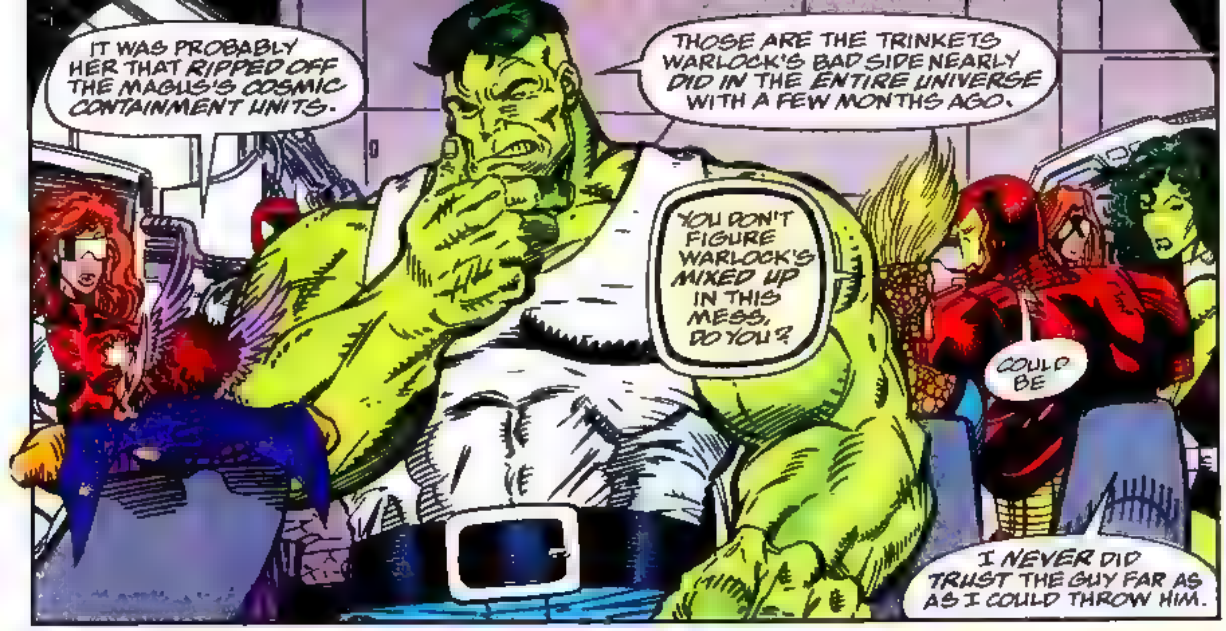
STARK HAS A NEW MODEL OF QUINJET READY FOR AVENGERS' USE.
THERE ARE TWO PROTOTYPES, AND THEY'RE EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE GOING TO NEED.
HAVE THEM PREPARED TO TAKE OFF AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
IT SOUNDS AS IF IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED HOW WE INTEND TO DEAL WITH THIS SO-CALLED GODDESS.
BUT I FOR ONE AM NOT 100% CERTAIN SHE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A MENACE.
NOR I. HER ACTIONS, THOUGH UNORTHODOX, THUS FAR APPEAR BENIGN.
ARE YOU PEOPLE OUT OF YOUR MINDS?
SHE'S MANIPULATING PEOPLE'S MINDS!
AND TERMINATING BLOODY CONFLICTS IN THE PROCESS!
THERE MAY BE NO END TO THE GOOD SHE MIGHT ACCOMPLISH!
SIR, SECURITY HAS PICKED UP A POSSIBLE INCOMING HOSTILE ON RADAR.
SECURITY, GIVE ME A VISUAL.
THAT'S THE ABSORBING MAN--!
HE'S A POWERHOUSE BUT HE'S SURE PICKED A BAD TIME TO TAKE ON THE AVENGERS!
YES-- AND HE'S IN FOR ONE RATHER LARGE SHOCK!

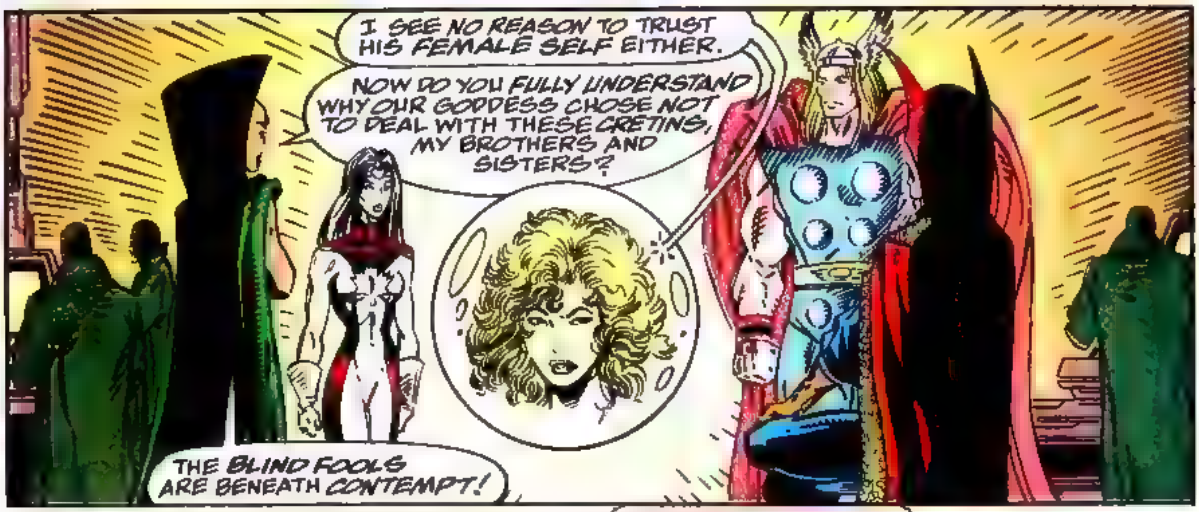
"IT'LL BE A MASSACRE."
HEY, MUSCLES, WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A CRACK AT FIRST?

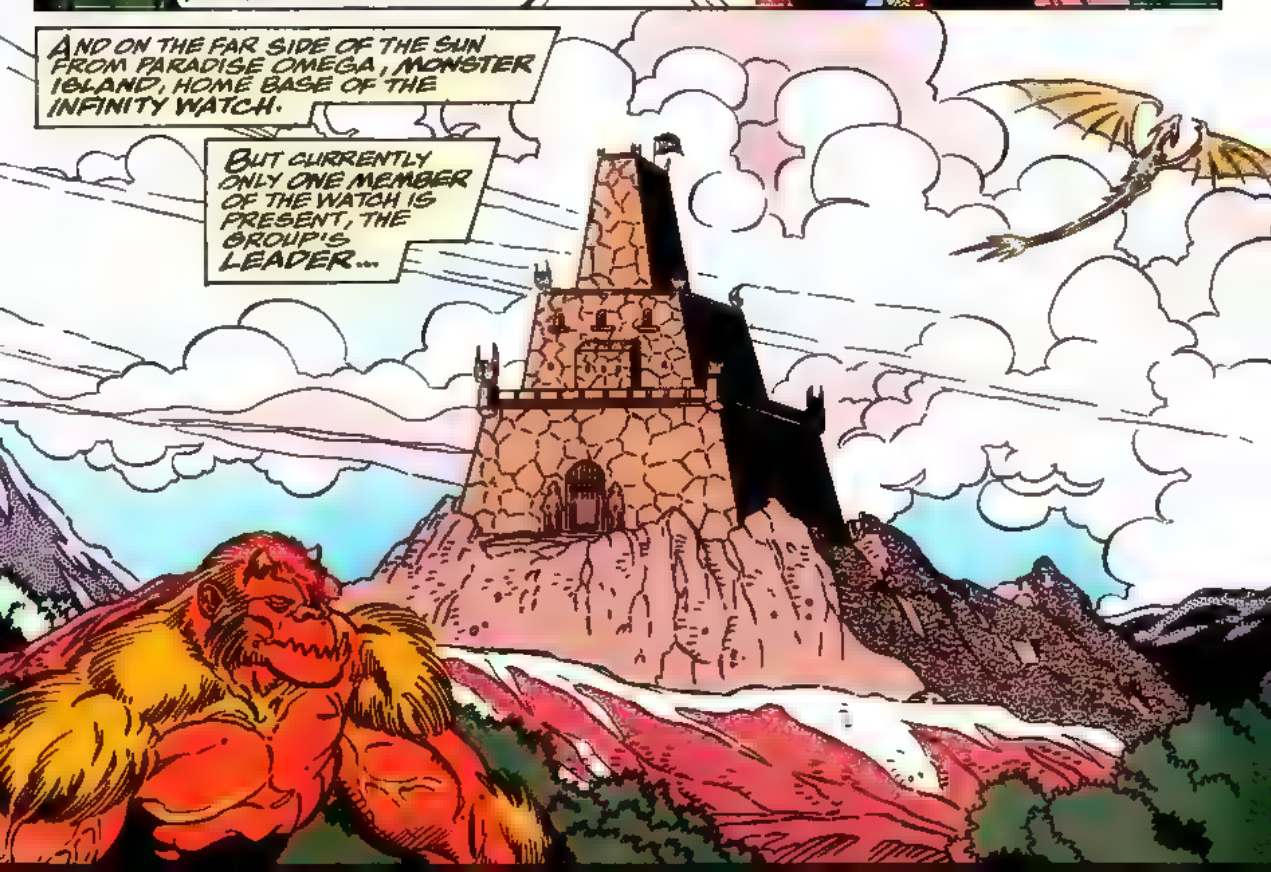
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT.
I CAME TO SURRENDER.
I'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF MY WAYS AND I'M READY TO FACE WHATEVER PUNISHMENT IS DUE ME.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY?
HE'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN AFFECTED BY THE GODDESS'S TELEPATHIC EMISSIONS.
WHAT NEXT?!
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET SOME SOUND WITH THIS PICTURE?
RIGHT... ABOUT... NOW.
...GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GODDESS RIGHT AWAY.
SISTER MOONDRAGON! LOOK!
BROTHER SLEEPWALKER IS FADING AWAY!
WHY IS HE DESERTING US?

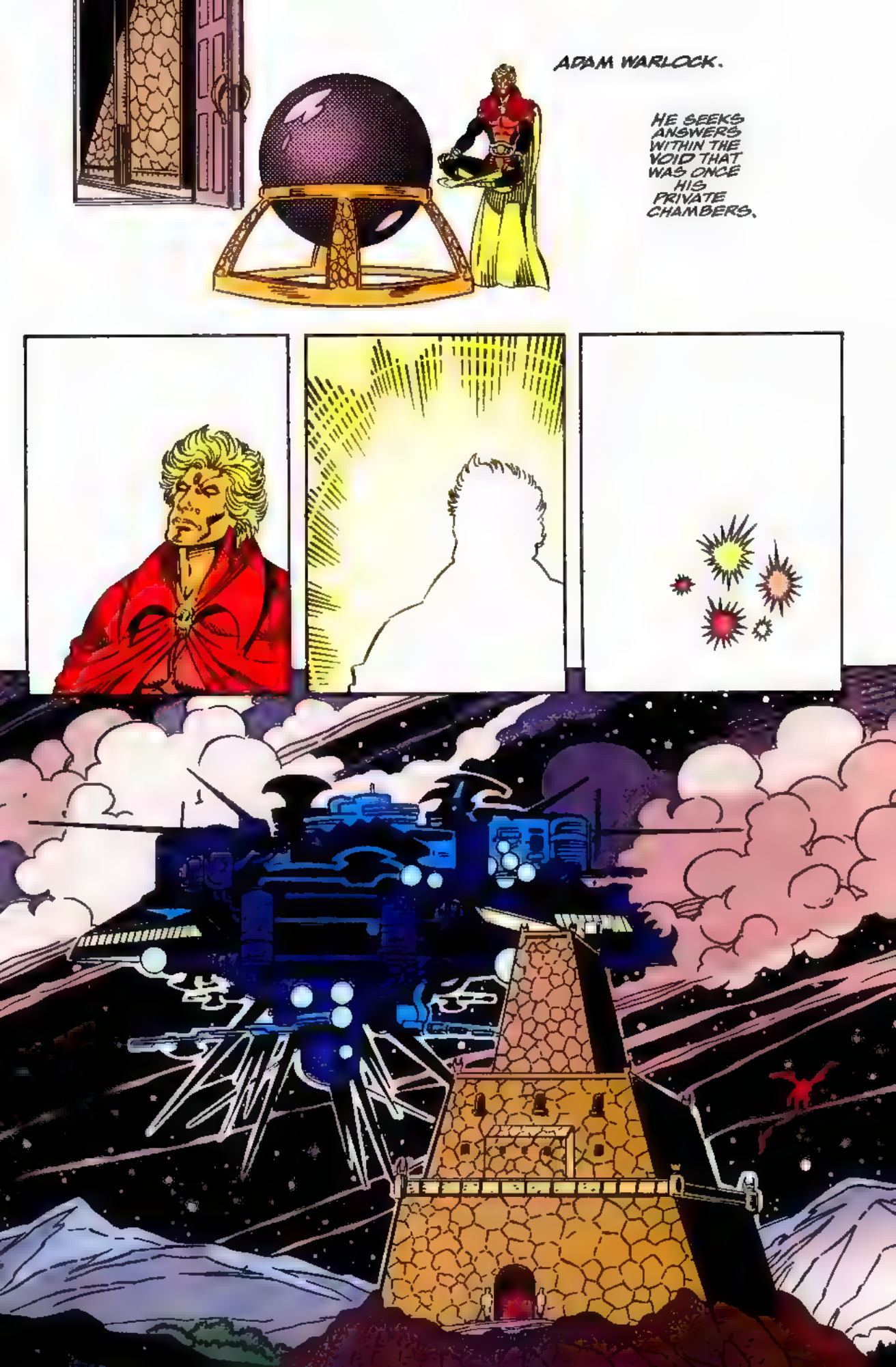
WHAT MOONDRAGON DOESN'T EVEN GUESS AT IS SOMETHING ANY REGULAR READER OF SLEEPWALKER KNOWS.
WHEN RICK SHERIDAN AWAKENS...
...THE BIZARRE MYSTIC ALIEN IS TRAPPED WITHIN HIS EARTHLY HOST BODY UNTIL RICK RETURNS TO SLUMBERLAND.*
MORNIN', RAMBO.
* THESE EVENTS HAPPENED BEFORE SLEEPWALKER #25. --CRAIG
WHAT WE HAVE TO DECIDE AMONG OURSELVES IS HOW AND IF WE ARE GOING TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THIS GODDESS.
I'M RELUCTANT TO AUTOMATICALLY BRAND HER A PERIL JUST BECAUSE SHE'S USING TECHNIQUES WE DON'T AGREE WITH. THE RESULTS THE GODDESS IS ACHIEVING FAR EXCEED ANY SUCCESS WE EVER ENJOYED USING OUR CURRENT METHODS OF OPERATION.
INTERFERING WITH HER PLAN MIGHT PROVE A GRAVE ERROR.
BUT EVEN IF SHE IS A FORCE FOR GOOD, HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT GOOD IS TRULY IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNIVERSE?

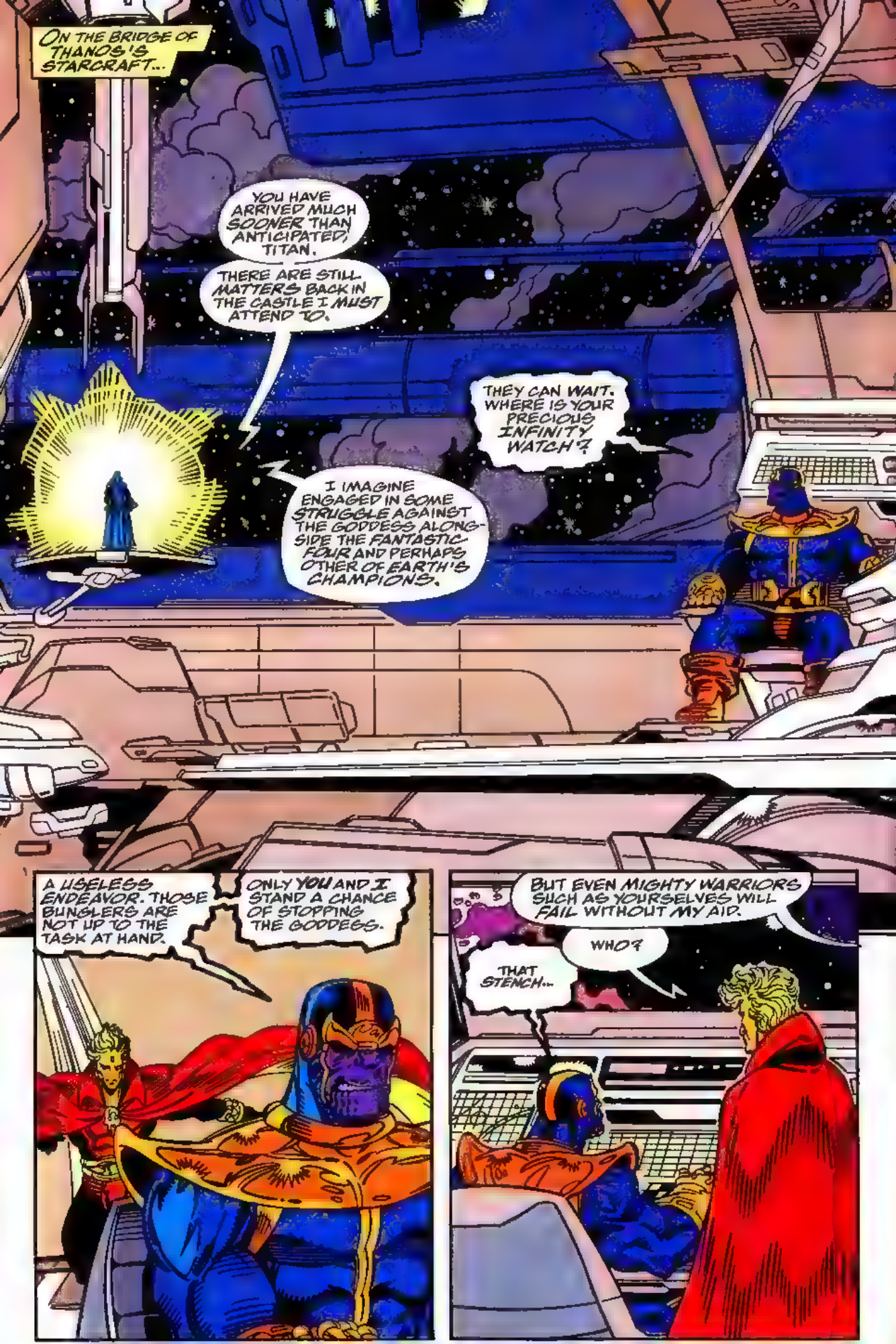

RELIGIOUS FERVOR HAS BEEN KNOWN TO LEAD MANKIND DOWN SOME PRETTY DISASTROUS PATHS IN THE PAST.
AMEN.
BUT WHAT IF SHE IS CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF SOME SUPREME BEING BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION?
COULD NOT OUR WELL-INTENDED BLUNDERING CAUSE MORE HARM THAN ANYTHING THE GODDESS MIGHT DO?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF FUZZY-HEADED THINKING I'D EXPECT FROM A TELEPATH!
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO START WONDERING IF YOU'RE NOT AMONG THE GODDESSES CHOSEN FEW!
YOU KNOW THE CHANCES ARE THIS GODDESS IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
AFTER ALL, THE MAGUS WAS ADAM'S EVIL MALE SIDE.
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT, TROLL?
WELL, WHEN WARLOCK WAS GOD HE EXPELLED ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM HIMSELF.
I SEEN IT HAPPEN IN THE INFINITY WELL. THAT'S HOW THE MAGUS CAME TO BE.
DIDN'T YOU GUYS KNOW THAT?
THIS GODDESS SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S GOT TO BE ADAM'S GOOD FEMININE SIDE.

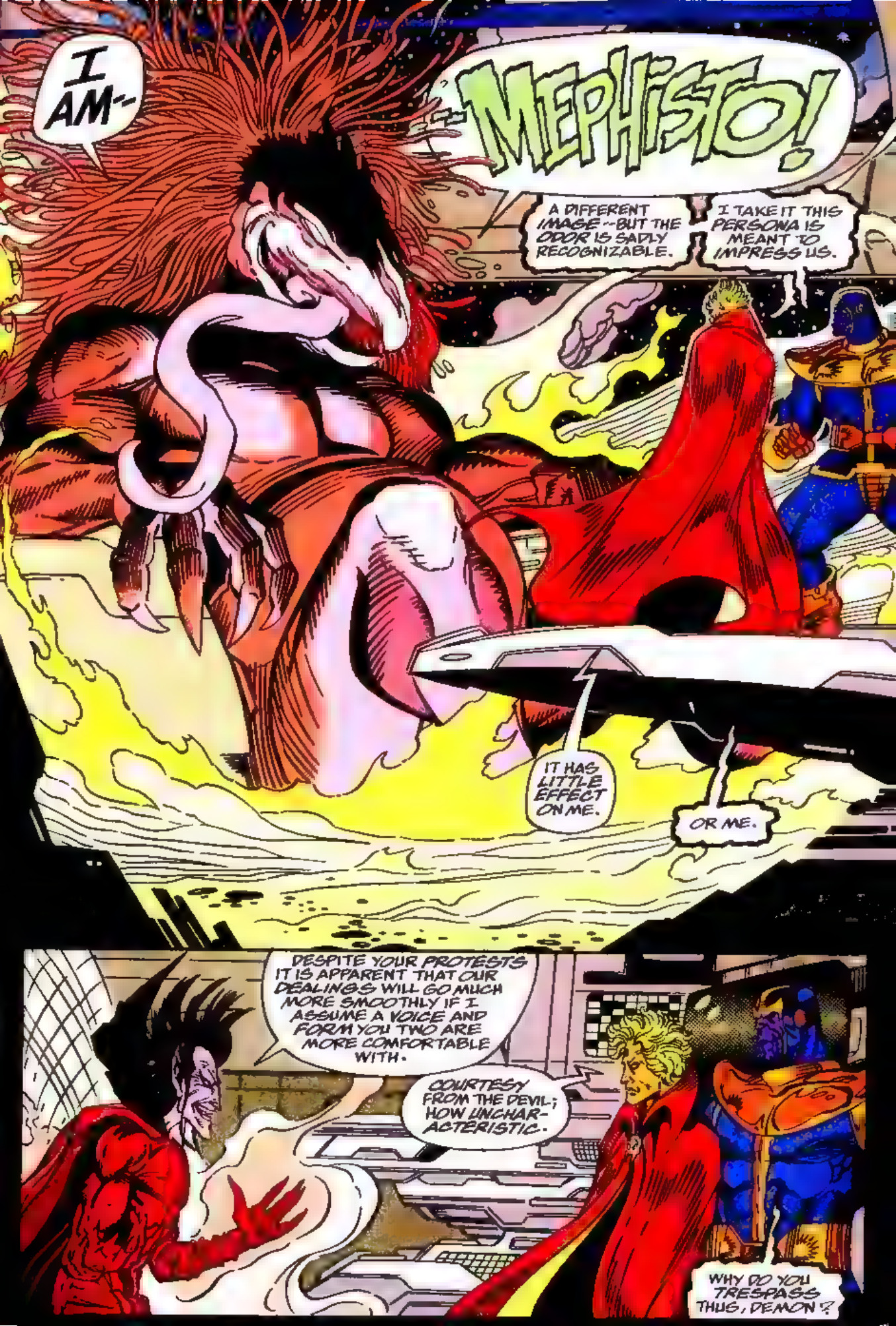

IT WAS PROBABLY HER THAT RIPPED OFF THE MAGUS'S COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS.
THOSE ARE THE TRINKETS WARLOCK'S BAD SIDE NEARLY DID IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WITH A FEW MONTHS AGO.
YOU DON'T FIGURE WARLOCK'S MIXED UP IN THIS MESS, DO YOU?
COULD BE
I NEVER DID TRUST THE GUY FAR AS AS I COULD THROW HIM.

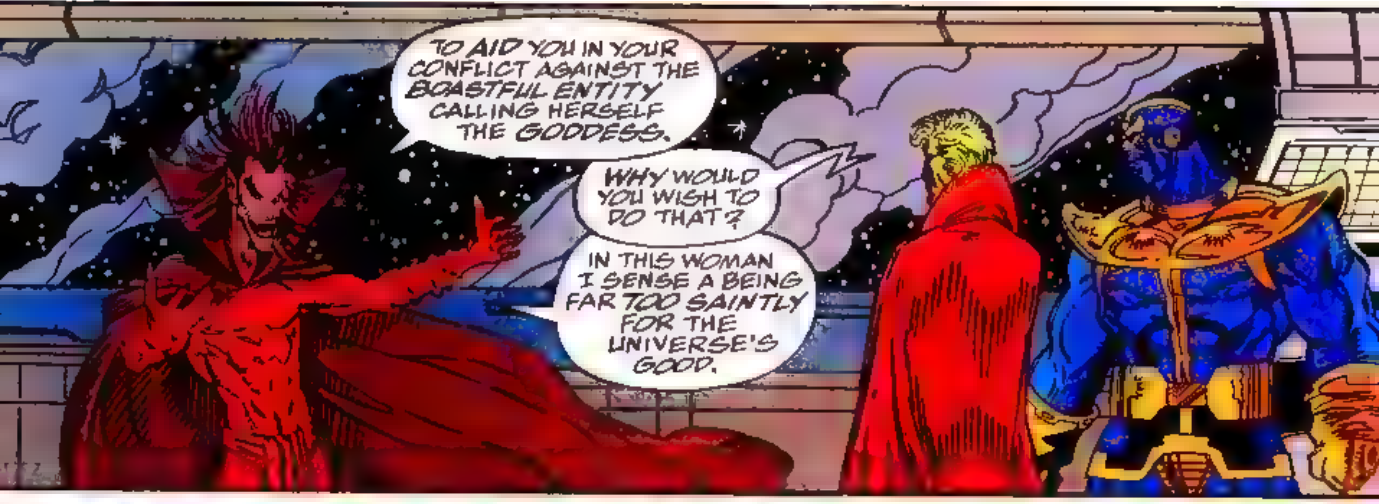

I SEE NO REASON TO TRUST HIS FEMALE SELF EITHER.
NOW DO YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY OUR GODDESS CHOSE NOT TO DEAL WITH THESE CRETINS, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?
THE BLIND FOOLS ARE BENEATH CONTEMPT!

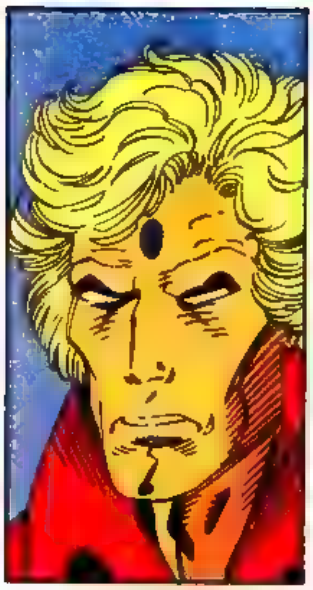

AND ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN FROM PARADISE OMEGA, MONSTER ISLAND, HOME BASE OF THE INFINITY WATCH.
BUT CURRENTLY ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE WATCH IS PRESENT, THE GROUP'S LEADER...

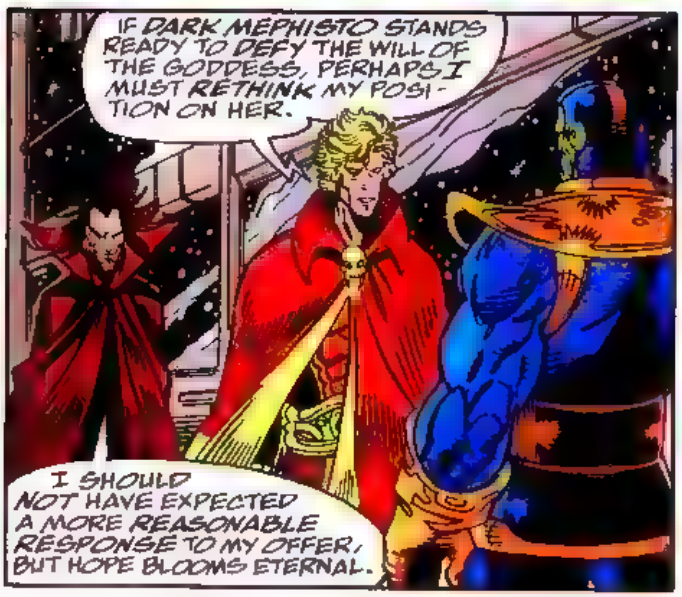

ADAM WARLOCK.
HE SEEKS ANSWERS WITHIN THE VOID THAT WAS ONCE HIS PRIVATE CHAMBERS.

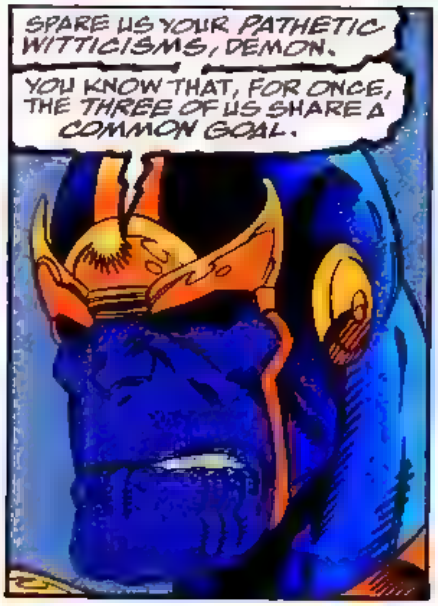

ON THE BRIDGE OF THANOS'S STARCRAFT...
YOU HAVE ARRIVED MUCH SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED, TITAN.
THERE ARE STILL MATTERS BACK IN THE CASTLE I MUST ATTEND TO.
THEY CAN WAIT. WHERE IS YOUR PRECIOUS INFINITY WATCH?
I IMAGINE ENGAGED IN SOME STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GODDESS ALONGSIDE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND PERHAPS OTHER OF EARTH'S CHAMPIONS.
A USELESS ENDEAVOR. THOSE BUNGLERS ARE NOT UP TO THE TASK AT HAND.
ONLY YOU AND I STAND A CHANCE OF STOPPING THE GODDESS.
BUT EVEN MIGHTY WARRIORS SUCH AS YOURSELVES WILL FAIL WITHOUT MY AID.
WHO?
THAT STENCH...

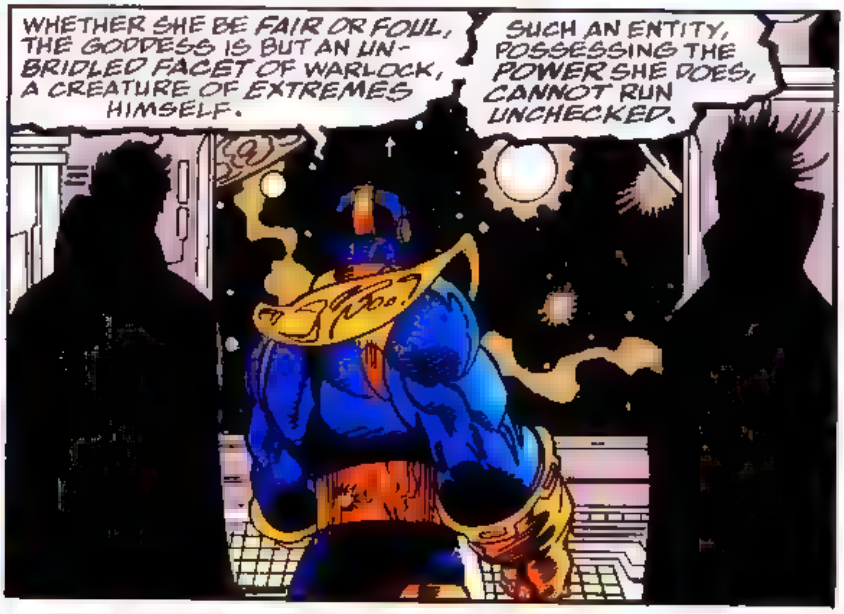

I AM--
--MEPHISTO!
A DIFFERENT IMAGE--BUT THE ODOR IS SADLY RECOGNIZABLE.
I TAKE IT THIS PERSONA IS MEANT TO IMPRESS US.
IT HAS LITTLE EFFECT ON ME.
OR ME.
DESPITE YOUR PROTESTS IT IS APPARENT THAT OUR DEALINGS WILL GO MUCH MORE SMOOTHLY IF I ASSUME A VOICE AND FORM YOU TWO ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH.
COURTESY FROM THE DEVIL; HOW UNCHARACTERISTIC.
WHY DO YOU TRESPASS THUS, DEMON?


TO AID YOU IN YOUR CONFLICT AGAINST THE BOASTFUL ENTITY CALLING HERSELF THE GODDESS.
WHY WOULD YOU WISH TO DO THAT?
IN THIS WOMAN I SENSE A BEING FAR TOO SAINTLY FOR THE UNIVERSE'S GOOD.




IF DARK MEPHISTO STANDS READY TO DEFY THE WILL OF THE GODDESS, PERHAPS I MUST RETHINK MY POSITION ON HER.
I SHOULD NOT HAVE EXPECTED A MORE REASONABLE RESPONSE TO MY OFFER, BUT HOPE BLOOMS ETERNAL.

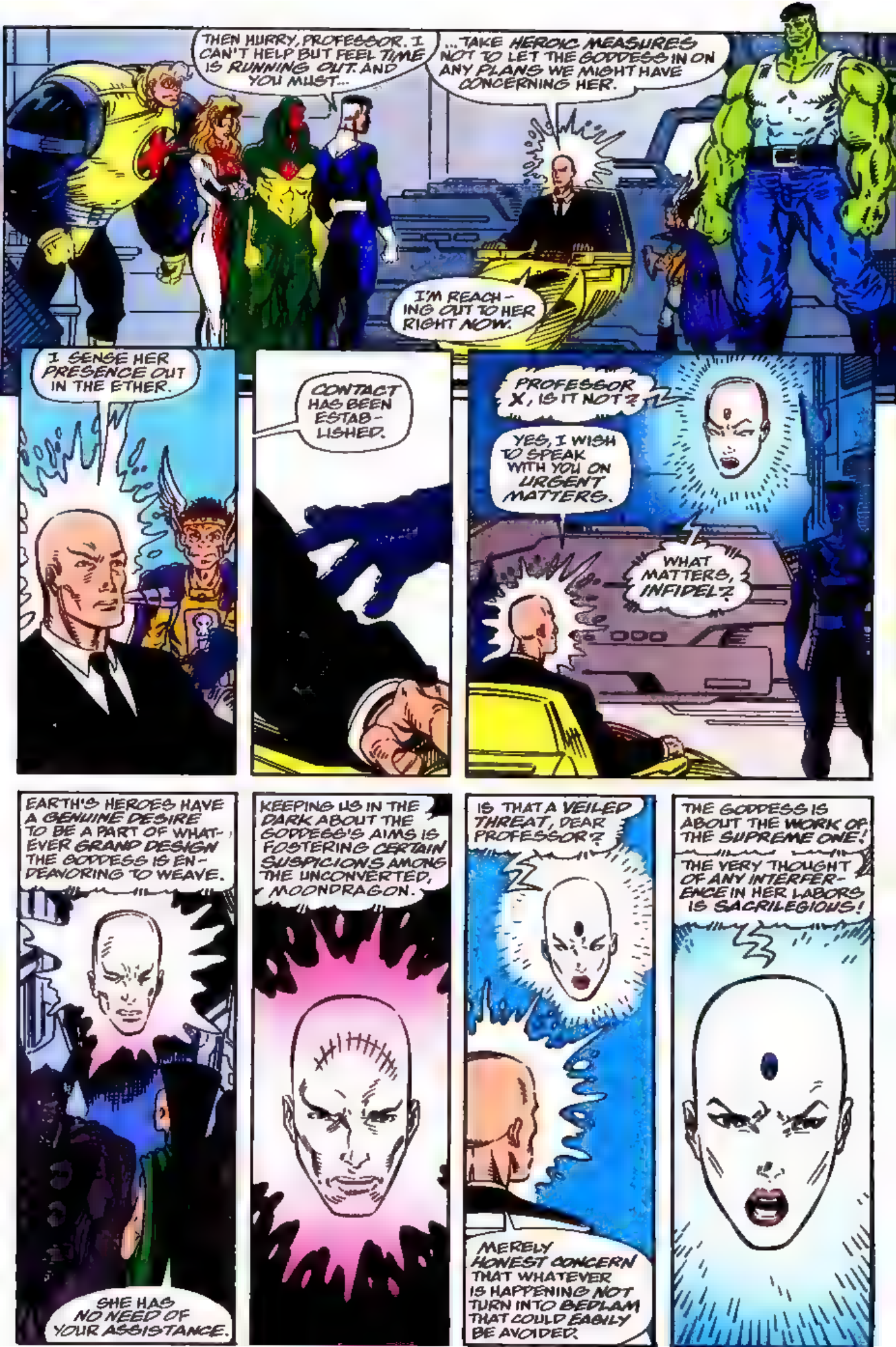

SPARE US YOUR PATHETIC WITTICISMS, DEMON.
YOU KNOW THAT, FOR ONCE, THE THREE OF US SHARE A COMMON GOAL.


WHETHER SHE BE FAIR OR FOUL, THE GODDESS IS BUT AN UNBRIDLED FACET OF WARLOCK, A CREATURE OF EXTREMES HIMSELF.
SUCH AN ENTITY, POSSESSING THE POWER SHE DOES, CANNOT RUN UNCHECKED.

ONLY UNIVERSAL DISASTER CAN SPRING FROM THE WOMB OF HER LIMITED PHILOSOPHY.
LIKE IT OR NOT ADAM, SHE MUST BE STOPPED.

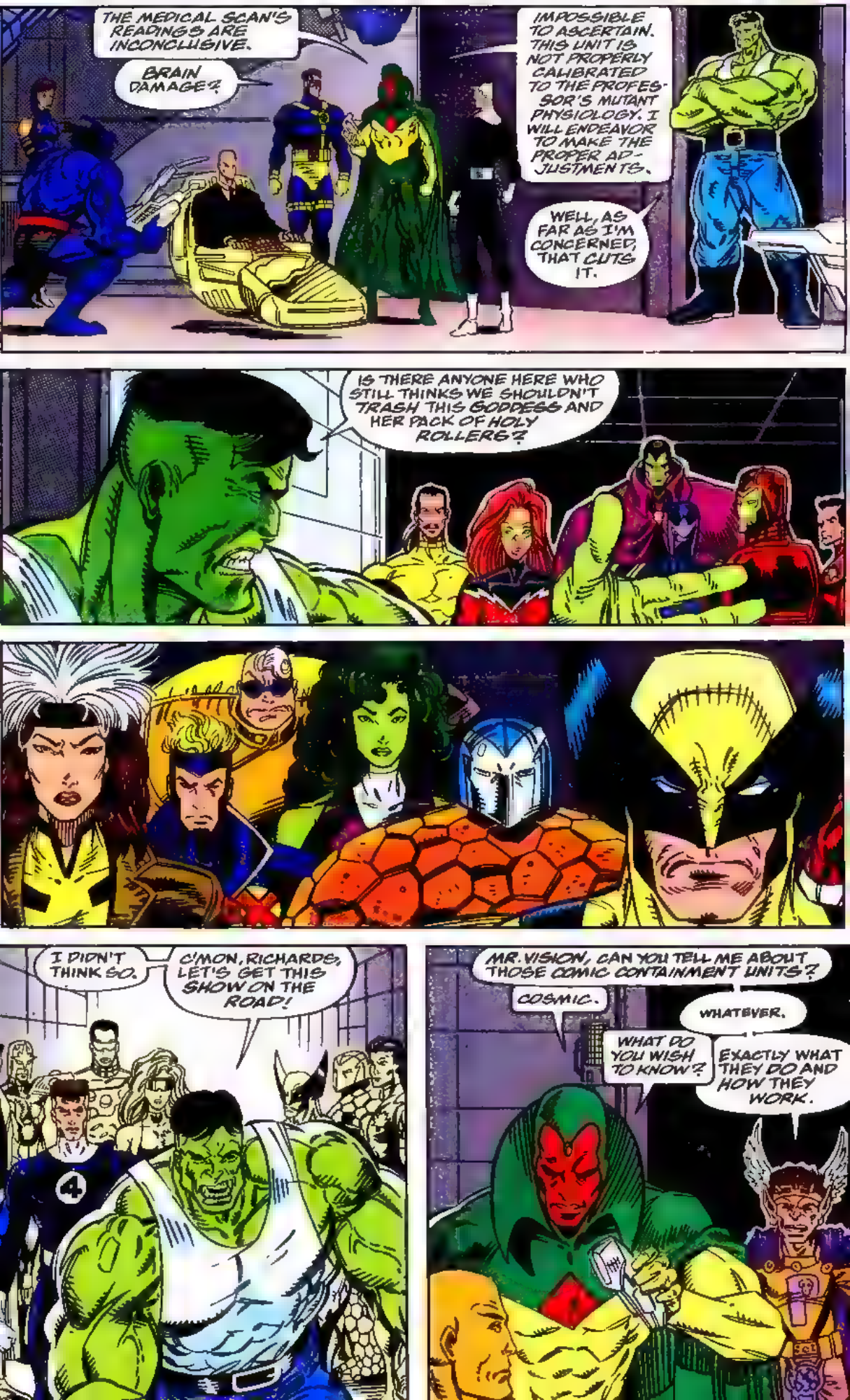
THE GODDESS'S STATED AIM IS TO ERADICATE ALL EVIL FROM THE UNIVERSE.
BUT EVIL IS BUT THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN OF GOOD.
ONLY A MADWOMAN WOULD BELIEVE THAT EVIL COULD BE BANISHED WITHOUT EXILING GOOD ALONG WITH IT.
WITH THOSE TWO QUALITIES ABSENT, SENTIENT SPIRIT WOULD BE SADLY LACKING IN MOST ENTITIES.
I MANAGE.
YOU ARE A MOST NOTABLE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
BUT SEEING AS HOW THE GODDESS IS BUT A PART OF YOUR WHOLE..
...THERE IS A MATTER YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR MIND TO.
IF IN POSSESSION OF ALMOST LIMITLESS POWER, HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT ELIMINATING ALL EVIL?
ELIMINATING ALL EVIL...?
WHETHER SHE BE SAINT OR SINNER, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT BY NOT OPPOSING THE GODDESS'S PLANS WE WOULD IN EFFECT BE SURRENDERING THE UNIVERSE'S FREE WILL.
ARE WE WILLING TO MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE EVEN TO GAIN PEACE THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY?

THIS DEBATE HAS CONTINUED LONG ENOUGH.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION; A VOTE MUST BE TAKEN.
THE MAJORITY IS GOING TO HAVE TO RULE IN THIS MATTER.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID UTTER CHAOS.
I AGREE, BUT I ASK THAT THE VOTE BE POSTPONED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO APPROACH MOONDRAGON TELEPATHICALLY.
PERHAPS REASON MAY YET PREVAIL OVER CONFLICT.
TRUTHFULLY, I DOUBT IT, BUT I'M MORE THAN WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY, PROFESSOR.
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT FROM HERE?
SEEING THAT MOONDRAGON POSSESSES THE INFINITY MIND GEM, I ASSUME THAT SHE SHOULD BE EXTRAORDINARILY SENSITIVE TO ANY TELEPATHIC MESSAGE SENT HER WAY.

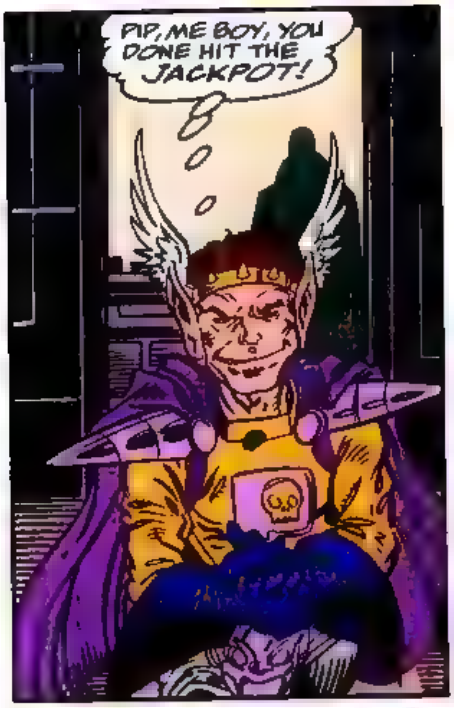

THEN HURRY, PROFESSOR. I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL TIME IS RUNNING OUT. AND YOU MUST...
...TAKE HEROIC MEASURES NOT TO LET THE GODDESS IN ON ANY PLANS WE MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING HER.
I'M REACH-ING OUT TO HER RIGHT NOW.
I SENSE HER PRESENCE OUT IN THE ETHER.
CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTAB-LISHED.
PROFESSOR X, IS IT NOT?
YES, I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU ON URGENT MATTERS.
WHAT MATTERS, INFIDEL?
EARTH'S HEROES HAVE A GENUINE DESIRE TO BE A PART OF WHAT-EVER GRAND DESIGN THE GODDESS IS EN-DEAVORING TO WEAVE.
SHE HAS NO NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE.
KEEPING US IN THE DARK ABOUT THE GODDESS'S AIMS IS FOSTERING CERTAIN SUSPICIONS AMONG THE UNCONVERTED, MOONDRAGON.
IS THAT A VEILED THREAT, DEAR PROFESSOR?
MERELY HONEST CONCERN THAT WHATEVER IS HAPPENING NOT TURN INTO BEDLAM THAT COULD EASILY BE AVOIDED.
THE GODDESS IS ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SUPREME ONE!
THE VERY THOUGHT OF ANY INTERFER-ENCE IN HER LABORS IS SACRILEGIOUS!

EVEN AS WE CONVERSE, THE GODDESS READIES THE UNIVERSAL SPIRIT FOR EPIPHANY.
WE STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE CELESTIAL.
THE FINAL COMING IS UPON US.
NOTHING MUST BE ALLOWED TO THWART THIS HOLY LABOR!
NOTHING!

NOTHING.
VERY WELL, THERE IS NO ARGUING THAT THE GODDESS'S SCHEMES MUST BE DERAILED.
BUT I SEE NO REASON TO ALLOW YOU, MEPHISTO, TO INSINUATE YOURSELF INTO THIS EFFORT.
INDEED. I SEE YOU MORE AS A DETRIMENT THAN AS ANY AID.
IN THAT YOU ARE MISTAKEN. THANOS, YOU HAVE DONE VAST RESEARCH ON THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS, HAVE YOU NOT?
SO?
I HAVE WALKED THIS PLANE MANY CENTURIES LONGER THAN EVEN YOU, TITAN.
DURING THAT TIME I HAVE UNRAVELED FAR MORE OF NATURE'S MYSTERIES--
--THAN YOU COULD EVER CONCEIVE!
THERE ARE CERTAIN LONG-FORGOTTEN SECRETS CONCERNING THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS YOU NEED KNOW IN ORDER TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND AND FOIL THE GODDESS AND HER PLANS.
IS HE SERIOUS?
I'M AFRAID SO...

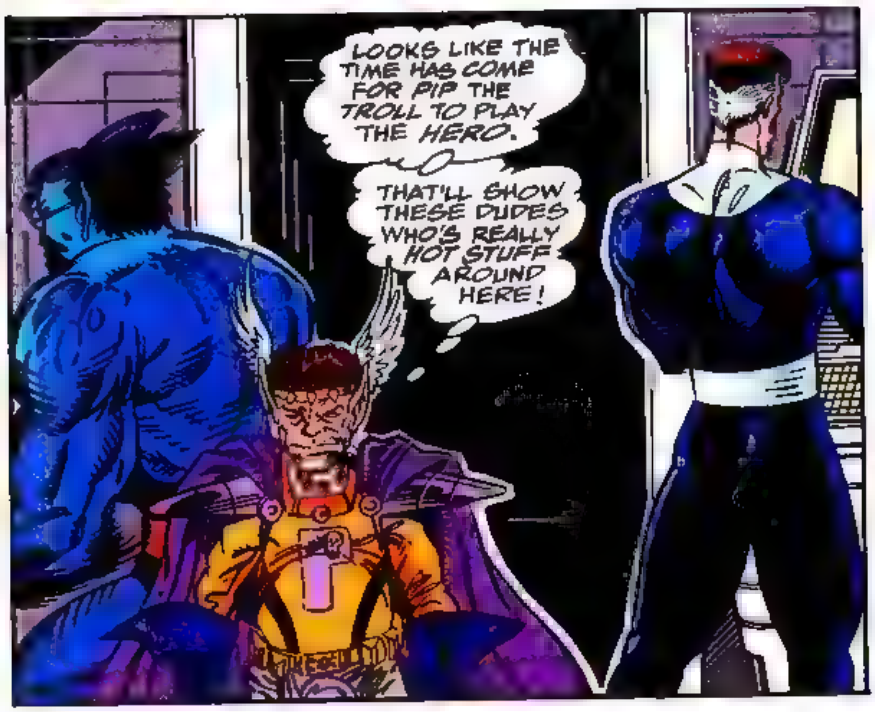

THE MEDICAL SCAN'S READINGS ARE INCONCLUSIVE.
BRAIN DAMAGE?
IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN. THIS UNIT IS NOT PROPERLY CALIBRATED TO THE PROFESSOR'S MUTANT PHYSIOLOGY. I WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THE PROPER ADJUSTMENTS.
WELL, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT CUTS IT.
IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO STILL THINKS WE SHOULDN'T TRASH THIS GODDESS AND HER PACK OF HOLY ROLLERS?
I DIDN'T THINK SO.
C'MON, RICHARDS, LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
MR. VISION, CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THOSE COMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS?
COSMIC.
WHATEVER.
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO KNOW?
EXACTLY WHAT THEY DO AND HOW THEY WORK.

THE UNITS GRANT THEIR HOLDER ALMOST ANY WISH THAT HE MENTALLY REQUESTS.
THERE ANY SWITCHES YOU GOTTA OPERATE?
NO, ONE NEED MERELY BE IN PHYSICAL CONTACT AND THINK OF HIS REQUEST.
IMAGINE THAT. THANKS.


PIP, ME BOY, YOU DONE HIT THE JACKPOT!

BY TOUCHIN' THE PROFESSOR WHEN HE WAS JAWIN' WITH THE OTHER BALDY, MY TELE-PORTATIONAL POWERS GOT A TELEPATHIC FIX ON MOONDRAGON'S LOCATION... WHICH MEANS I CAN ZAP THERE ANY TIME I FEEL LIKE IT.

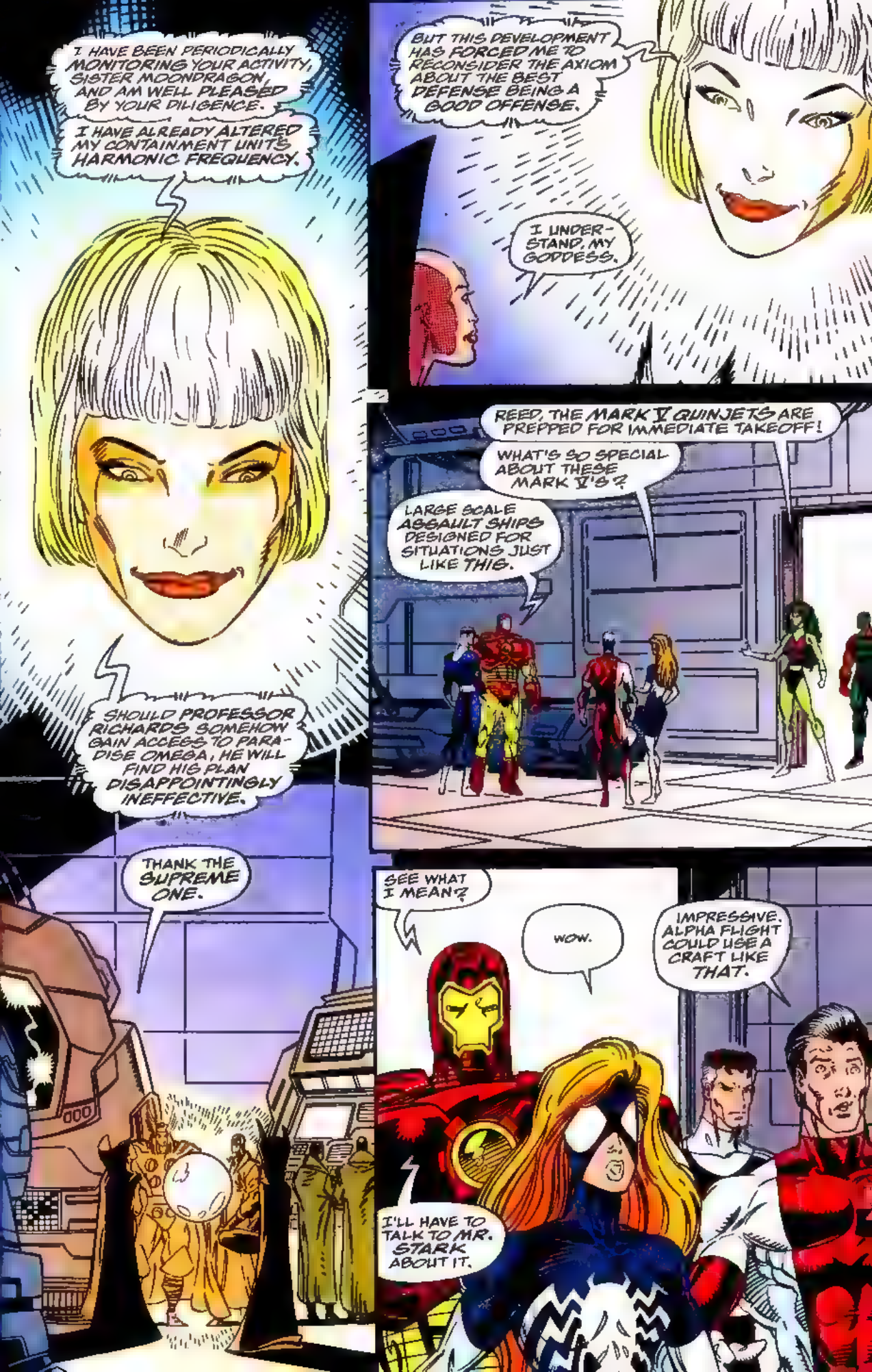
GOT THAT SAME FIX ON THE GODDESS WHEN MOONY WAS THINKIN' ABOUT HER!
NOTHIN' TO STOP ME FROM GIVIN' HER A SURPRISE VISIT.

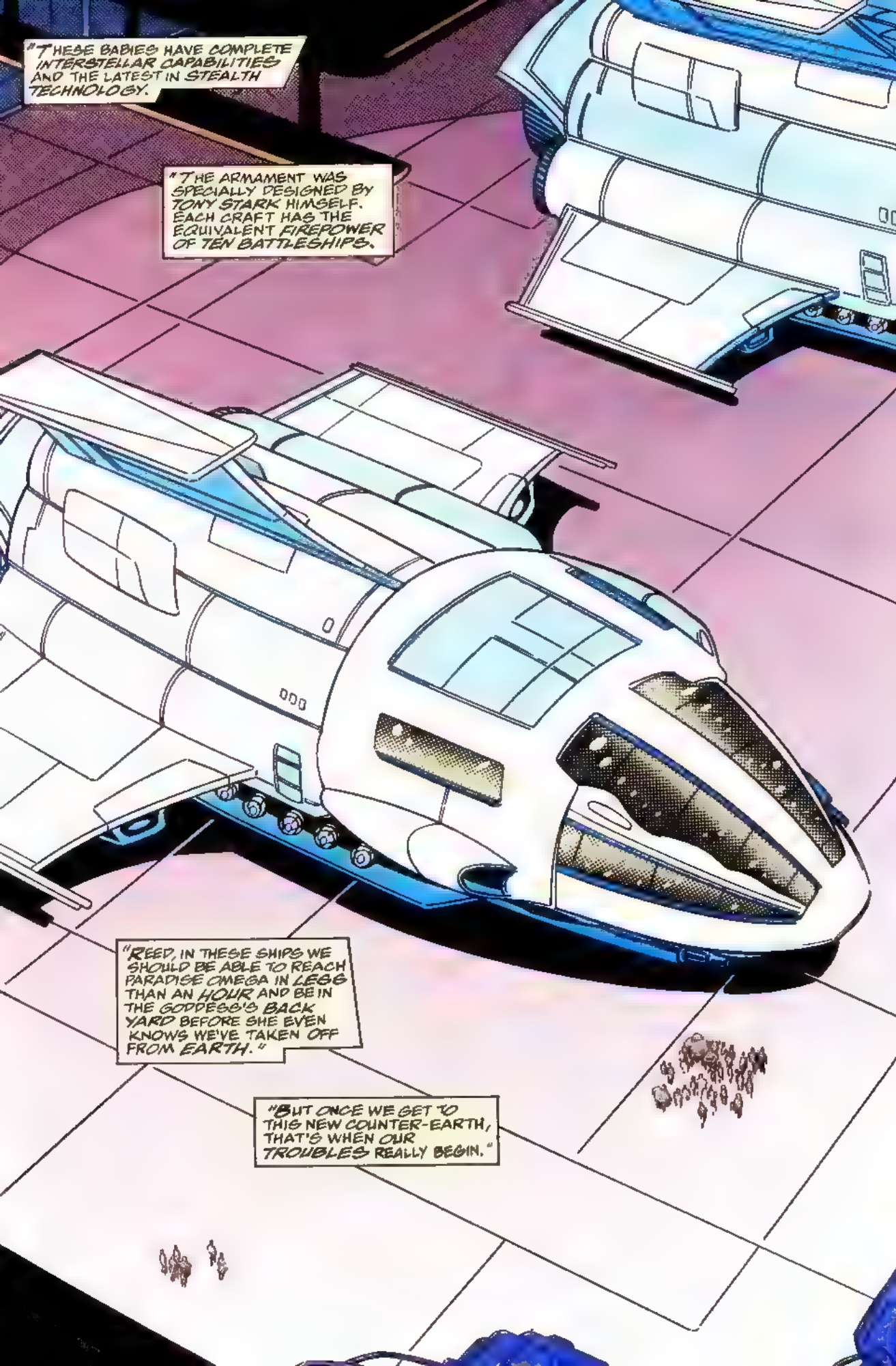

LOOKS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME FOR PIP THE TROLL TO PLAY THE HERO.
THAT'LL SHOW THESE DUDES WHO'S REALLY HOT STUFF AROUND HERE!

PIP!
HUH?

ADAM?!
USING MY SOUL GEM TO CONTACT YOU ON A SPIRITUAL LEVEL!
PLEASE PRECISELY INFORM ME AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON AT YOUR END.
AND DO YOU KNOW WHY MY SUMMONS TO GAMORA AND MOON-DRAGON WOULD HAVE BEEN REFUSED?
SURE DO.
... AND THAT'S THE STORY.
THANK YOU, PIP. I'LL BE IN CONTACT.
THE CRETIN WAS NOT TELLING THE WHOLE TRUTH.
IT IS HIS NATURE. BUT HE HAS REVEALED ENOUGH FOR OUR NEEDS.
THE SITUATION IS FAR WORSE THAN WE FEARED.
REMEDYING IT WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU KEEP GROPING AROUND IN DARKNESS.
I TAKE IT YOU ARE OFFERING ILLUMINATION?
FOR A PRICE.
WHICH IS?
WHEN AND IF YOU SUCCEED IN DEFEATING THIS GODDESS, I ASSUME HER COLLECTION OF COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS WILL BE BROKEN UP.
MOST DEFINITELY.

THEN THE PRICE FOR MY EXPERTISE AND SERVICES IS MERELY ONE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT.
THE WAY I SEE IT, OUR ONE HOPE IS GETTING CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE GODDESS TO USE THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
A HARMONIC DISRUPTER SET TO DISABLE OUR ENEMY'S GROUP COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT.
BUT WILL IT WORK?
I BELIEVE SO.
I PICKED UP ON THE GIANT EGG'S FREQUENCY WHEN I WAS VISITING PARADISE OMEGA.
AN INGENIOUS PLAN..
ONE THAT MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED IF
GODDESS, I HAVE JUST COME INTO POSSESSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION YOU WILL FIND EXTREMELY INTERESTING.


I HAVE BEEN PERIODICALLY MONITORING YOUR ACTIVITY, SISTER MOONDRAGON, AND AM WELL PLEASED BY YOUR DILIGENCE.
I HAVE ALREADY ALTERED MY CONTAINMENT UNIT'S HARMONIC FREQUENCY.
SHOULD PROFESSOR RICHARDS SOMEHOW GAIN ACCESS TO PARADISE OMEGA, HE WILL FIND HIS PLAN DISAPPOINTINGLY INEFFECTIVE.
THANK THE SUPREME ONE.
BUT THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS FORCED ME TO RECONSIDER THE AXIOM ABOUT THE BEST DEFENSE BEING A GOOD OFFENSE.
I UNDERSTAND, MY GODDESS.
REED, THE MARK V QUINJETS ARE PREPPED FOR IMMEDIATE TAKEOFF!
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE MARK V'S?
LARGE SCALE ASSAULT SHIPS DESIGNED FOR SITUATIONS JUST LIKE THIS.
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
WOW.
IMPRESSIVE. ALPHA FLIGHT COULD USE A CRAFT LIKE THAT.
I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO MR. STARK ABOUT IT.


"THESE BABIES HAVE COMPLETE INTERSTELLAR CAPABILITIES AND THE LATEST IN STEALTH TECHNOLOGY.
"THE ARMAMENT WAS SPECIALLY DESIGNED BY TONY STARK HIMSELF. EACH CRAFT HAS THE EQUIVALENT FIREPOWER OF TEN BATTLESHIPS.
"REED, IN THESE SHIPS WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH PARADISE OMEGA IN LESS THAN AN HOUR AND BE IN THE GODDESS'S BACK YARD BEFORE SHE EVEN KNOWS WE'VE TAKEN OFF FROM EARTH."
"BUT ONCE WE GET TO THIS NEW COUNTER-EARTH, THAT'S WHEN OUR TROUBLES REALLY BEGIN."

I HOPE ALL PRESENT REALIZE THAT EVEN THOUGH THOSE WE FACE WERE ONCE OUR ALLIES, WE CAN EXPECT NO QUARTER FROM THEM.
THEY TRULY THINK THAT THEY ARE DEFENDING THE SECOND COMING OR SOMETHING, AND WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
THE GODDESS CHOSE THE BEST FROM AMONG US--THOSE WITH THE STRONGEST HEARTS, SPIRITS AND POWERS.
BECAUSE THEY WERE OUR FRIENDS, NOW TURNED ENEMIES, THEY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US AND WILL BE READY TO DEAL WITH IT.
WE MAY BE IN FOR THE TOUGHEST FIGHT WE'VE EVER HAD.

HERCULES, THIS BOMB OUGHT TO LEVEL A GOOD SECTION OF MANHATTAN.

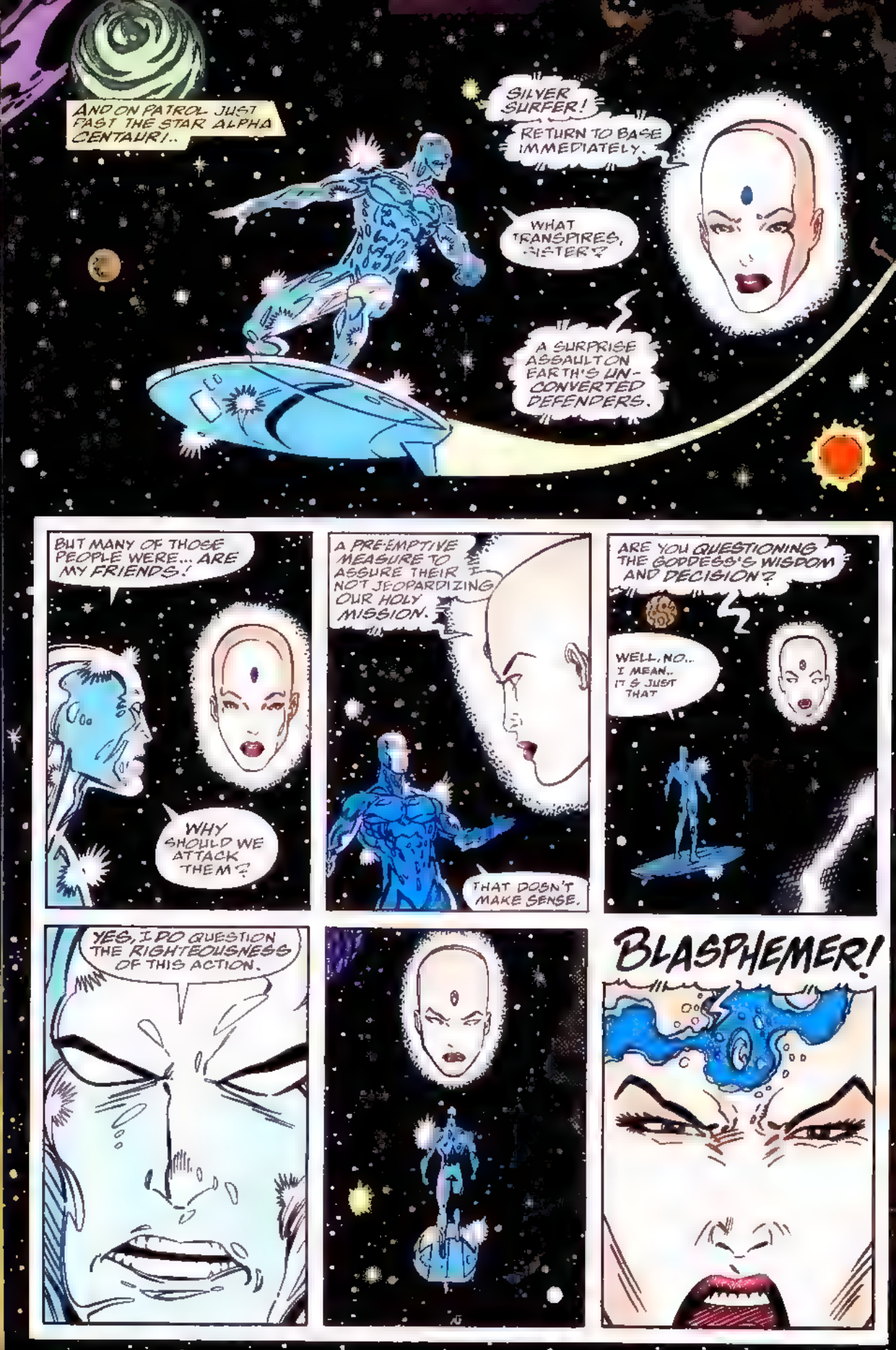
'TIS JUST, WONDER MAN. YON CITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SNAKE PIT OF CORRUPTION AND VICE. . THOUGH IT HAS ITS CHARMS, E'EN FOR AN IMMORTAL.

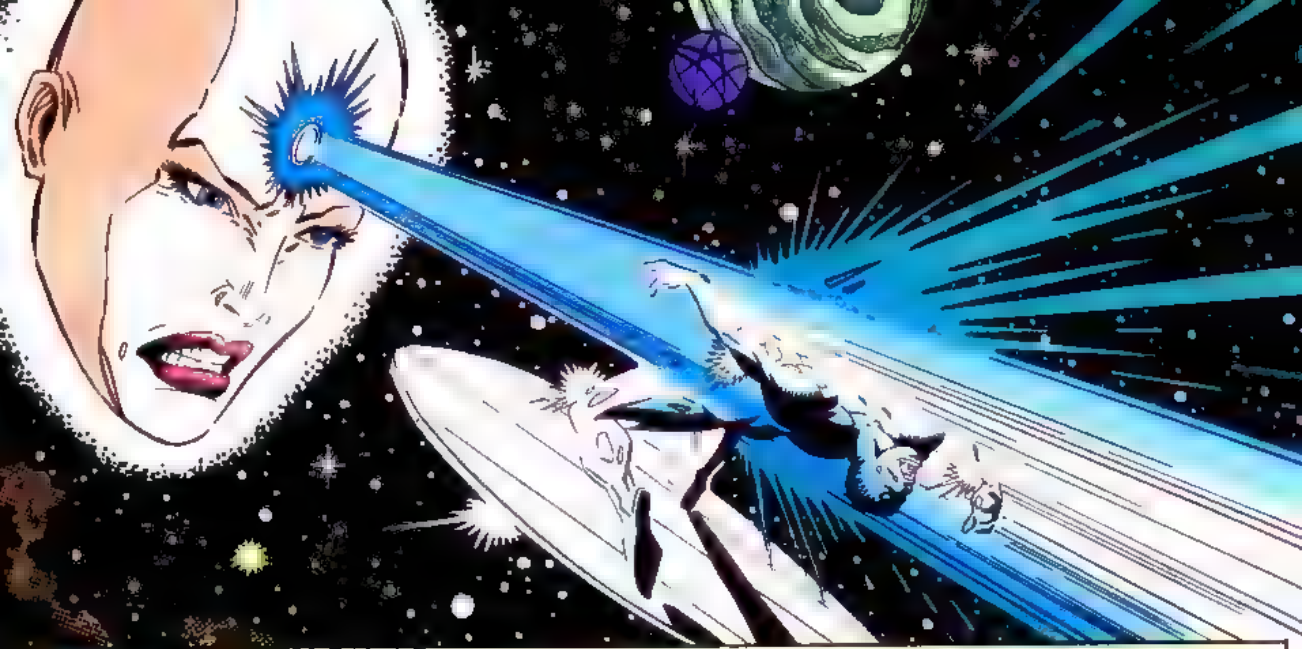
MULTIPLE MAN, I THOUGHT YOU WERE BRINGING FIRELORD AND THE SURFER IN ON THIS CYCLE?

COULDN'T. THEY'RE OUT OF TRANSPORT RANGE, CAP.

THEN I SHALL TELEPATHICALLY SUMMON THEM CLOSER TO PARADISE OMEGA.

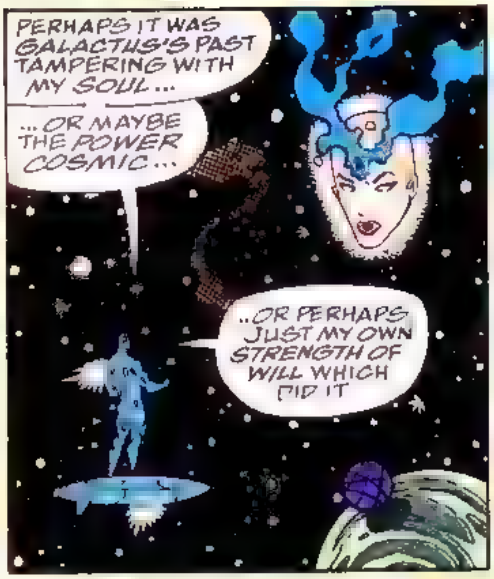
OUR TASK DURING THE RAID WILL BE TO MYSTICALLY DISRUPT AS MANY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AS POSSIBLE.

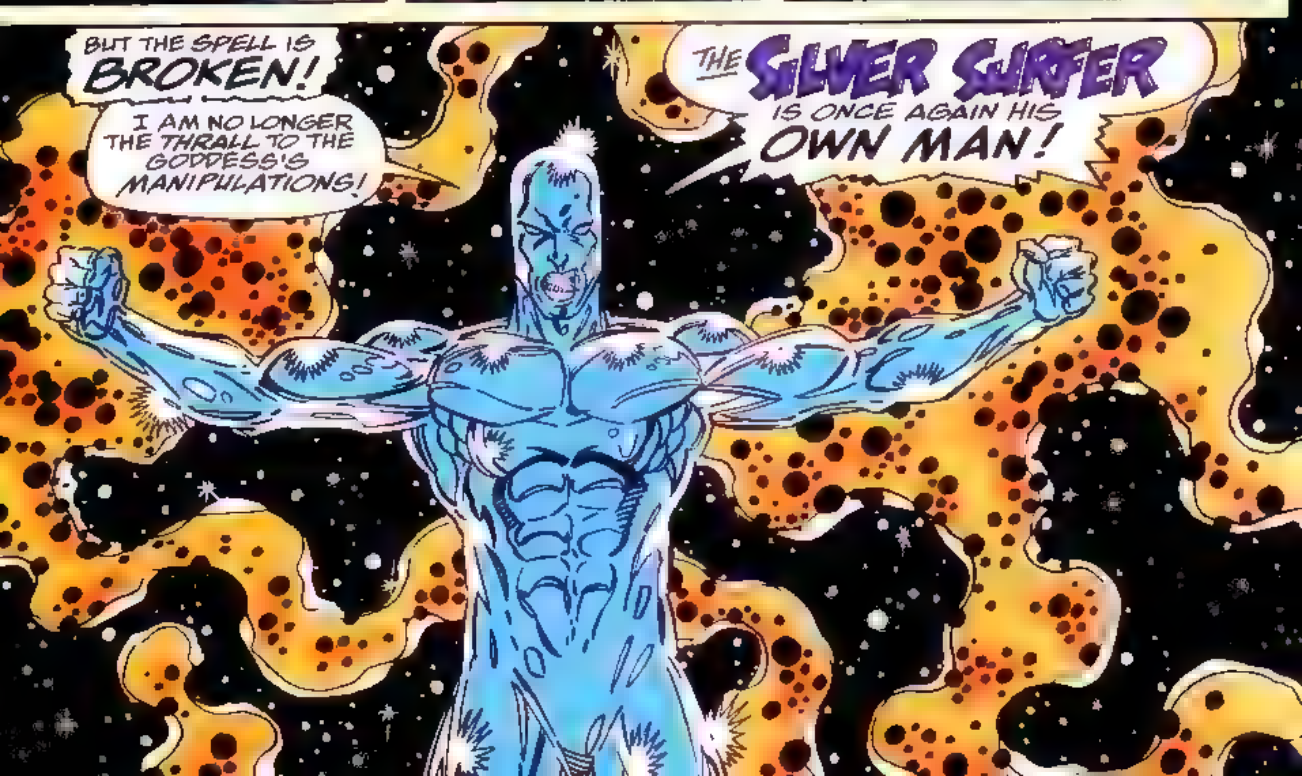

AND ON PATROL JUST PAST THE STAR ALPHA CENTAURI..
SILVER SURFER!
RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATELY.
WHAT TRANSPIRES, SISTER?
A SURPRISE ASSAULT ON EARTH'S UN-CONVERTED DEFENDERS.
BUT MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE WERE... ARE MY FRIENDS!
WHY SHOULD WE ATTACK THEM?
A PRE-EMPTIVE MEASURE TO ASSURE THEIR I NOT JEOPARDIZING OUR HOLY MISSION.
THAT DOSN'T MAKE SENSE.
ARE YOU QUESTIONING THE GODDESS'S WISDOM AND DECISION?
WELL, NO.. I MEAN.. IT'S JUST THAT
YES, I DO QUESTION THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THIS ACTION.
BLASPHEMER!

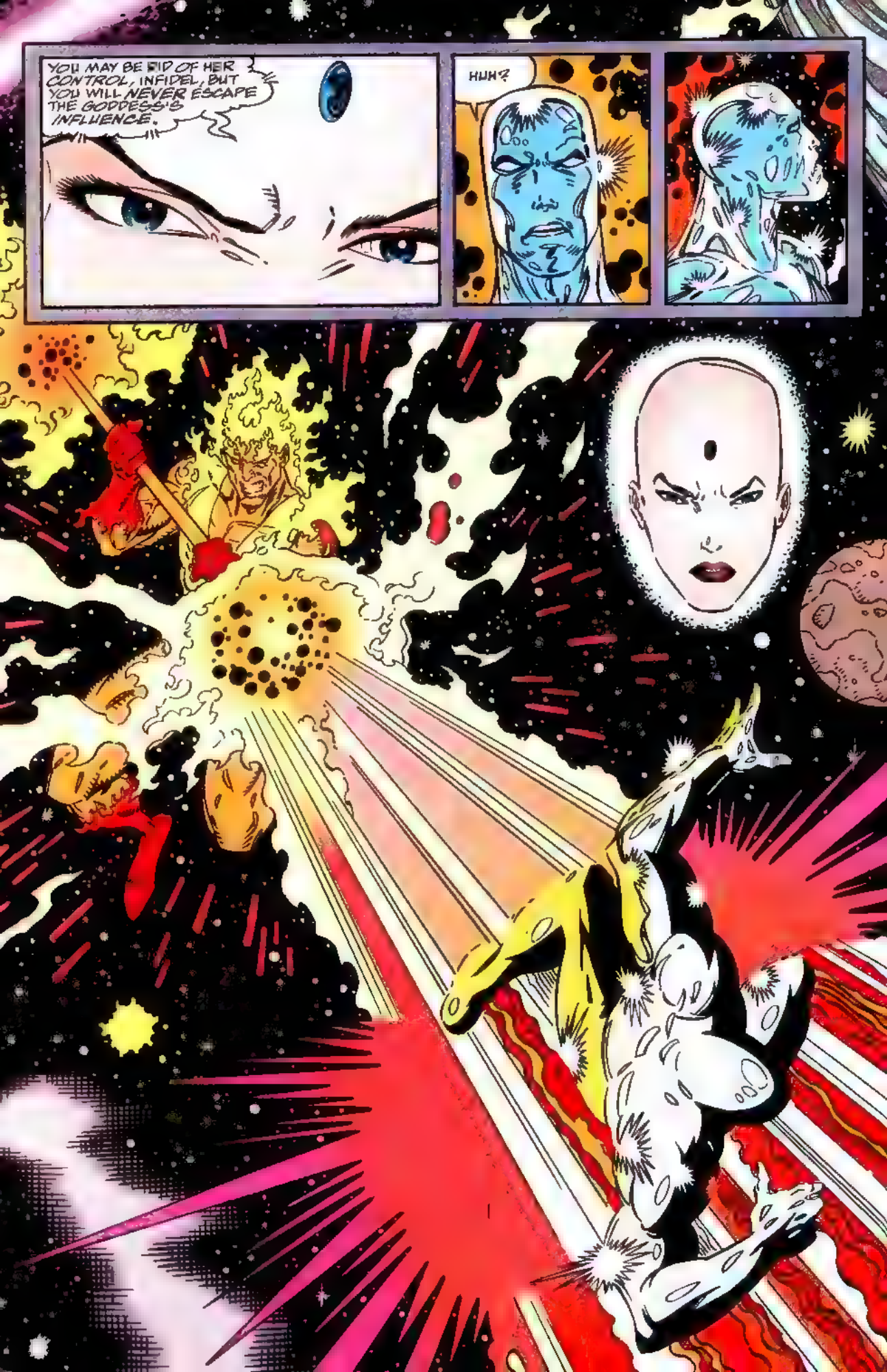


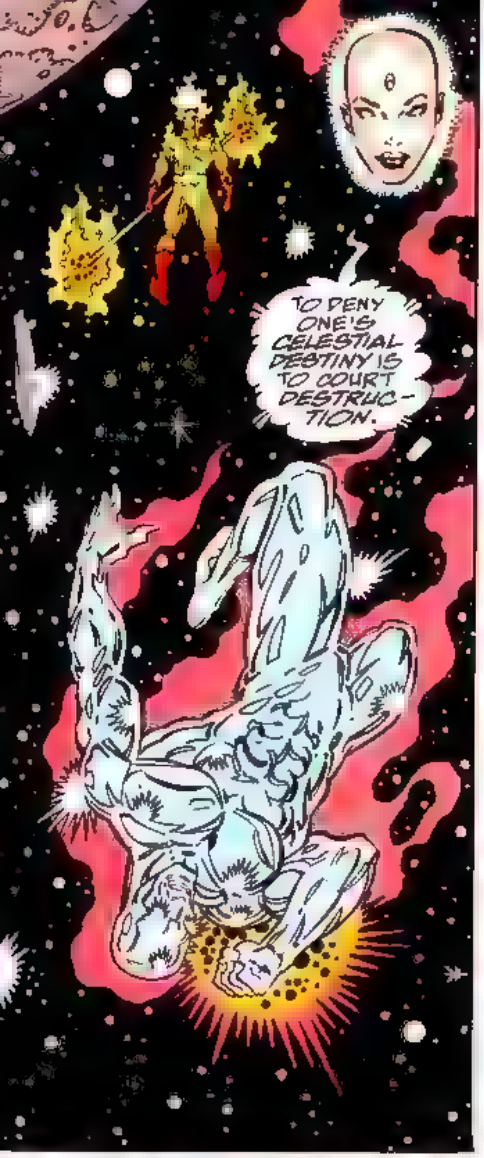
IT'S NO GOOD, MOON-DRAGON.

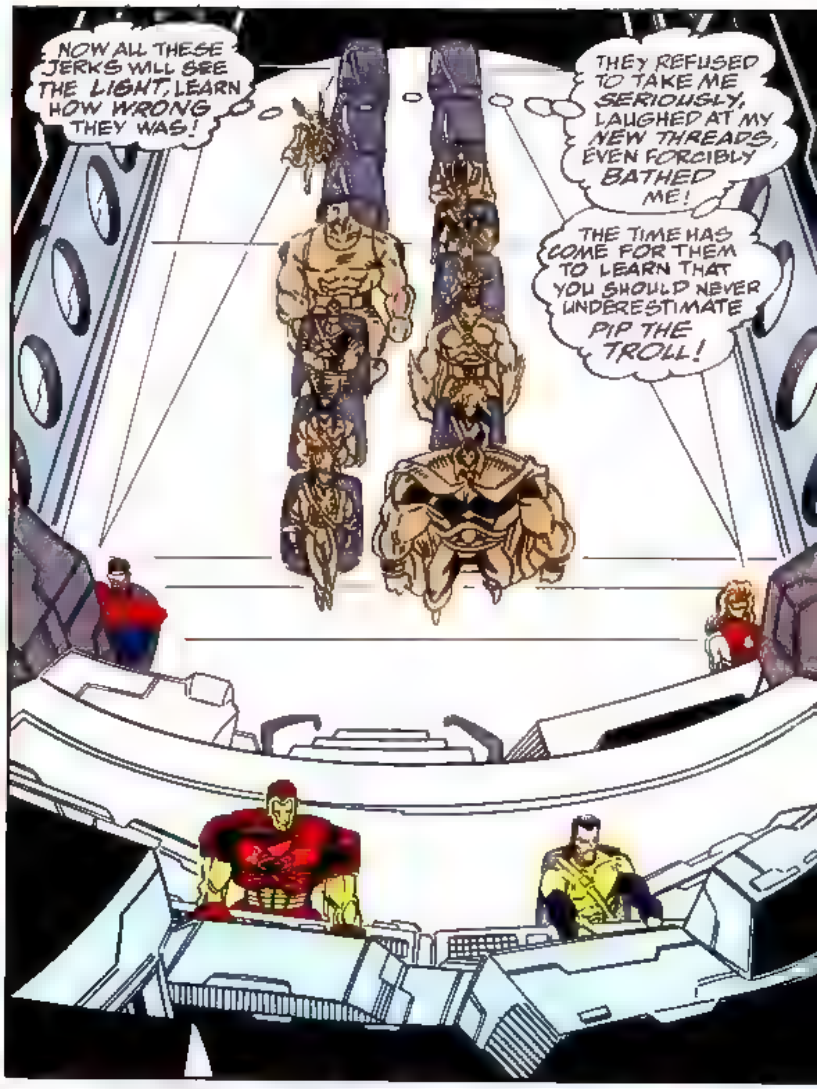
I'LL NOT BE WHIPPED INTO LINE BY SOME LACKEY.

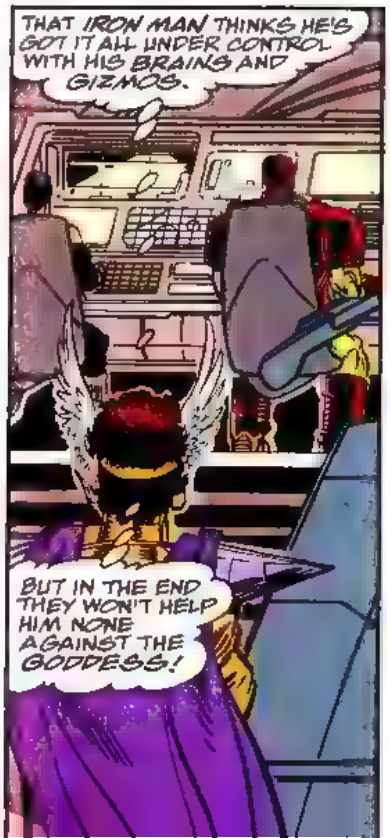

PERHAPS IT WAS GALACTUS'S PAST TAMPERING WITH MY SOUL...
...OR MAYBE THE POWER COSMIC...
..OR PERHAPS JUST MY OWN STRENGTH OF WILL WHICH DID IT


BUT THE SPELL IS BROKEN!
I AM NO LONGER THE THRALL TO THE GODDESS'S MANIPULATIONS!
THE SILVER SURFER IS ONCE AGAIN HIS OWN MAN!


YOU MAY BE RID OF HER CONTROL, INFIDEL, BUT YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE THE GODDESS'S INFLUENCE.
HUH?

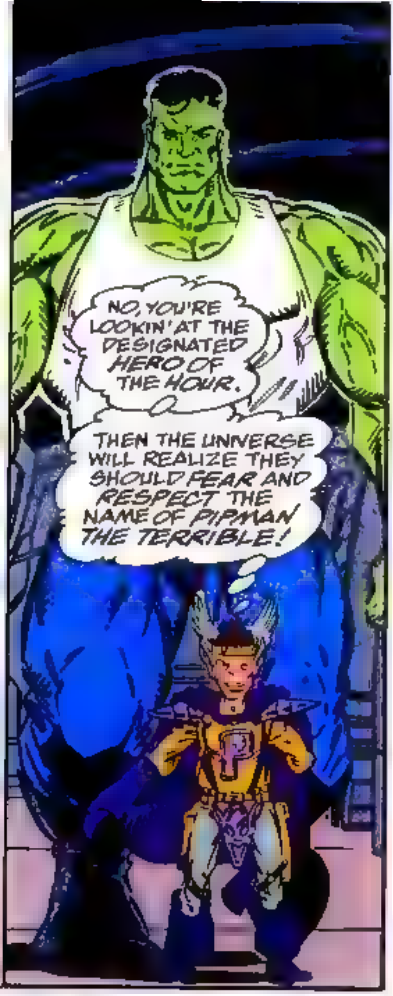

TO DENY ONE'S CELESTIAL DESTINY IS TO COURT DESTRUC-TION.


NOW ALL THESE JERKS WILL SEE THE LIGHT, LEARN HOW WRONG THEY WAS!
THEY REFUSED TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY, LAUGHED AT MY NEW THREADS, EVEN FORCIBLY BATHED ME!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR THEM TO LEARN THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER UNDERESTIMATE PIP THE TROLL!


THAT IRON MAN THINKS HE'S GOT IT ALL UNDER CONTROL WITH HIS BRAINS AND GIZMOS.
BUT IN THE END THEY WON'T HELP HIM NONE AGAINST THE GODDESS!

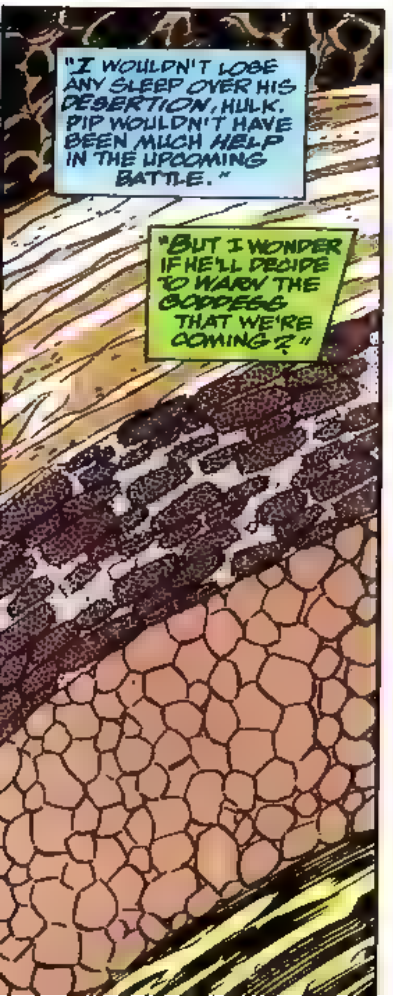
THAT WALKIN' MUSCLE, THE HULK, THINKS HE CAN JUST POUND ANY PROBLEM INTO A SOLUTION.
WRONG.

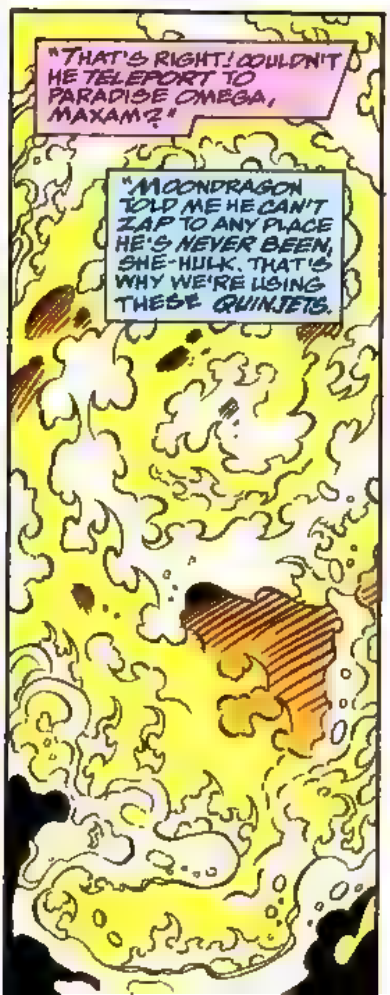
NOT EVEN CLEVER OL' MAXAM IS GOIN' TO BE ABLE TO PULL OUR FAT OUTTA THE FIRE THIS TIME.
NONE OF THESE YAHOOS CAN DO SQUAT AGAINST THE GODDESS!

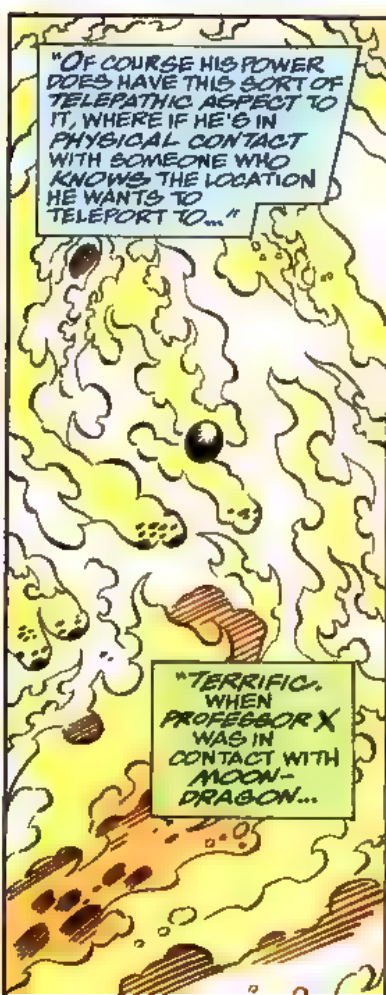

NO, YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT THE DESIGNATED HERO OF THE HOUR.
THEN THE UNIVERSE WILL REALIZE THEY SHOULD FEAR AND RESPECT THE NAME OF PIPMAN THE TERRIBLE!

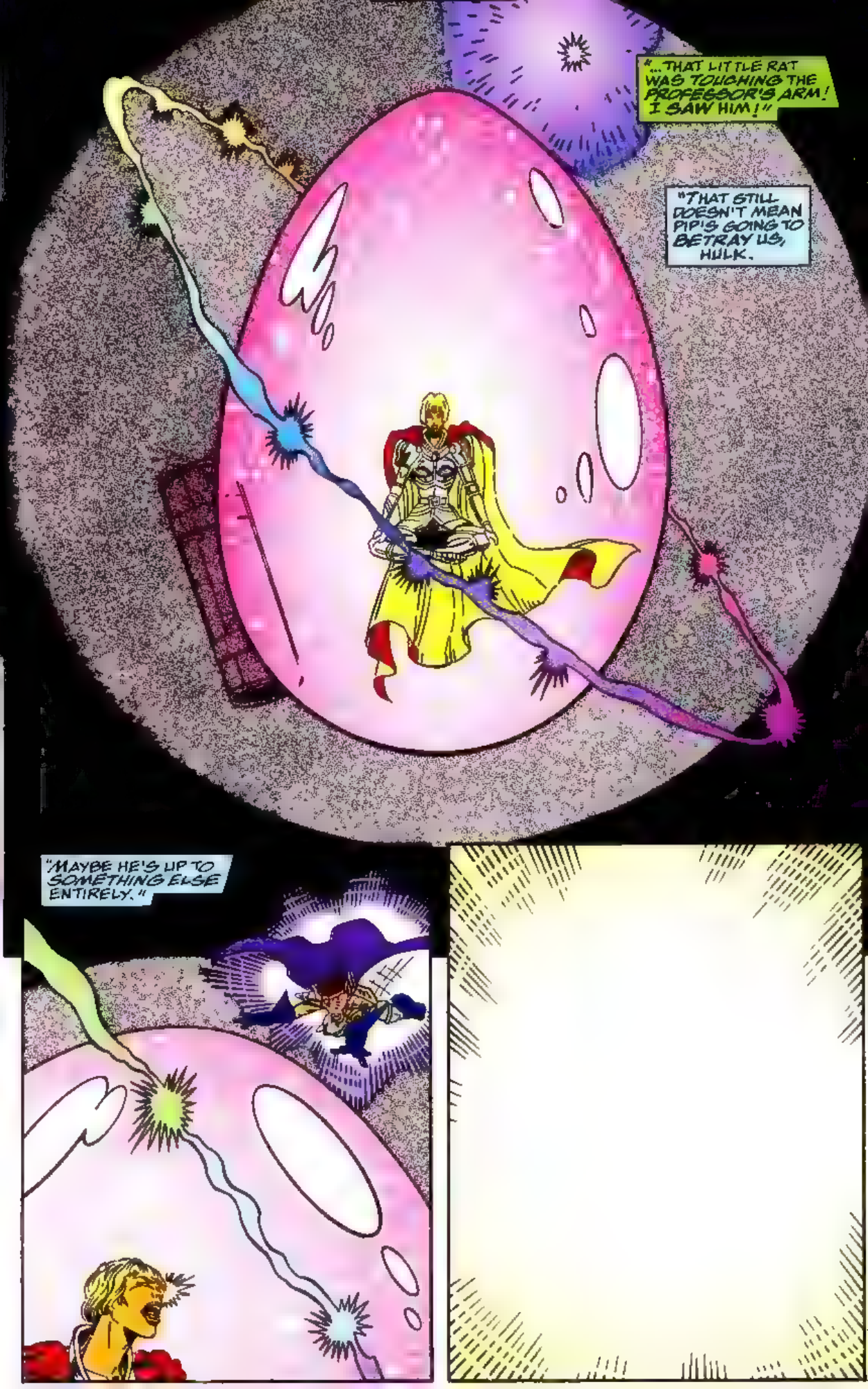
I KNEW IT! I JUST KNEW THAT LITTLE MANIAC WAS UP TO SOMETHING!

BUT WHAT?
TROUBLE FOR US--IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY INDICATION.
I SHOULD'VE DROWNED HIM IN THE BATHTUB WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.


"I WOULDN'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER HIS DESERTION, HULK. PIP WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH HELP IN THE UPCOMING BATTLE."
"BUT I WONDER IF HE'LL DECIDE TO WARN THE GODDESS THAT WE'RE COMING?"


"THAT'S RIGHT! COULDN'T HE TELEPORT TO PARADISE OMEGA, MAXAM?"
"MOONDRAGON TOLD ME HE CAN'T ZAP TO ANY PLACE HE'S NEVER BEEN, SHE-HULK. THAT'S WHY WE'RE USING THESE QUINJETS.


"OF COURSE HIS POWER DOES HAVE THIS SORT OF TELEPATHIC ASPECT TO IT, WHERE IF HE'S IN PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE LOCATION HE WANTS TO TELEPORT TO..."
"TERRIFIC. WHEN PROFESSOR X WAS IN CONTACT WITH MOON-DRAGON...


"...THAT LITTLE RAT WAS TOUCHING THE PROFESSOR'S ARM! I SAW HIM!"
"THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN PIP'S GOING TO BETRAY US, HULK.
"MAYBE HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY."

IT WORKED!
I WISHED IT AND THE GODDESS TURNED TO SALT!
HOW BIBLICAL.
WHATEVER SHE WAS UP TO JUST GOT FILED IN THE COULD-HAVE-BEEN-FOLDER!
NEXT:
MORTAL SINS!
AND PIP THE TROLL JUST BECAME KING OF THE UNIVERSE!
OUR TALE OF COSMIC INTRIGUE CONTINUES IN SILVER SURFER #83 ON SALE NEXT WEEK!
IN TWO WEEKS CHECK OUT THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES #3!
THEN FOLLOW THE ACTION 2 WEEKS LATER IN THE PAGES OF WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #20!
AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK REJOIN US HERE!

MARVEL COMICS
SLUGFEST ON THE SOULSCAPE!
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
PLUS: NIGHTWATCH VS DEATHGRIN
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A. SAVIUK
WACEK

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™

THE INFINITY CRUSADE HAS BEGUN
ON BOTH SIDES OF EARTH'S SUN, HEROES DRAW SIDES AGAINST HEROES... PREPARING TO TEAR REALITY ASUNDER IN THE NAME OF UNIVERSAL PEACE.
BUT, AS THE ENIGMATIC GODDESS RETREATS INTO HER OMNIPOTENT SOUL EGG TO SEEK FINAL "RAPTURE"*, ONE LOYAL CRUSADER STRUGGLES DESPERATELY TO REACH HER AT THE HEART OF PARADISE OMEGA
HOPING FOR ANSWERS TO UNVOICED QUESTIONS, SPIDER-MAN IS REWARDED FOR HIS HEROIC EFFORTS WITH AN UNEXPECTED SOJOURN INWARD TO THE TROUBLED SOULSCAPE OF PETER PARKER!**
THE GANG'S ALL HERE, MOON-DRAGON...
THIS "INSIGHT INTO THE ID" TAKES PLACE BETWEEN INFINITY CRUSADE #2-3.
*LAST ISSUE --ERIC

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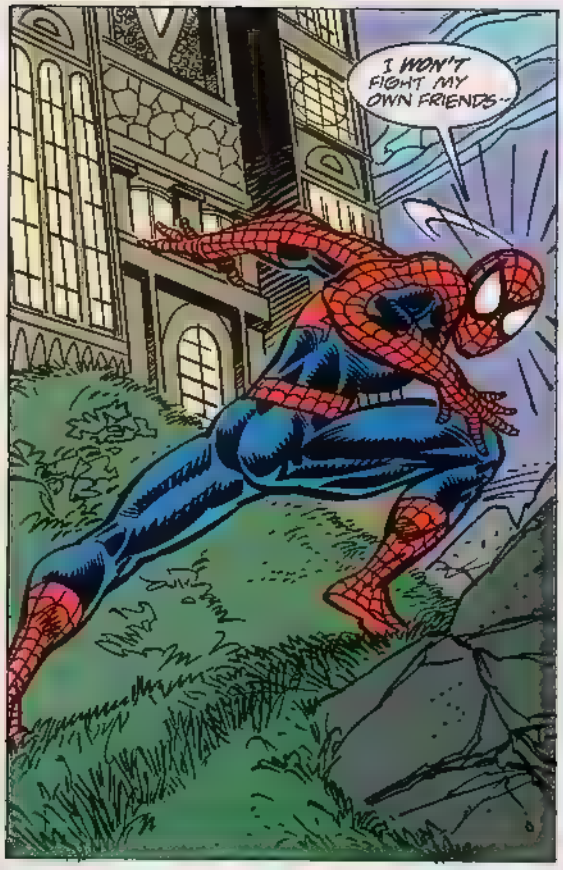
...BUT I'M LOOKING FOR THE GODDESS HERSELF!

YOU SEE AND HEAR ONLY WHAT YOU WANT--NEED-- TO SEE AND HEAR, SPIDER-MAN...
SUCH IS THE HIGH PRICE OF ENLIGHTENMENT!
AND PARADISE IS ALL BUT LOST TO ONE LONE SOUL
CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE PART 2
SOUL GAUNTLET
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
ALEX SINCLAIR BREAKDOWNS
DON HUDSON FINISHES
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
ERIC FEIN EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO--
--ME?!
THE GODDESS HAS GRACIOUSLY DECIDED TO ALLOW THE MAN UNDER THE MASK TO ADDRESS HIS COWARDLY SELF-DOUBTS, HERO...
"...BUT IT MUST BE A GOAL WORTH FIGHTING--AND DYING--FOR.
AS OUR PSI-PRIESTESS COMMANDED--
HAVE TO FOLLOW MOONDRAGON BACK TO THE SACRED CATHEDRAL BEFORE--
"UMPH"
--BURY THE UNBELIEVER!
NO!

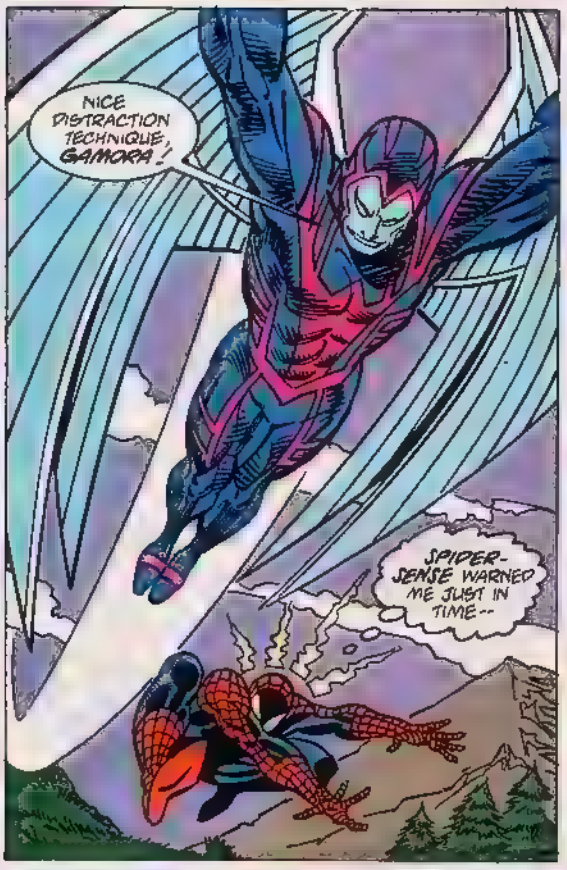

I WON'T FIGHT MY OWN FRIENDS--

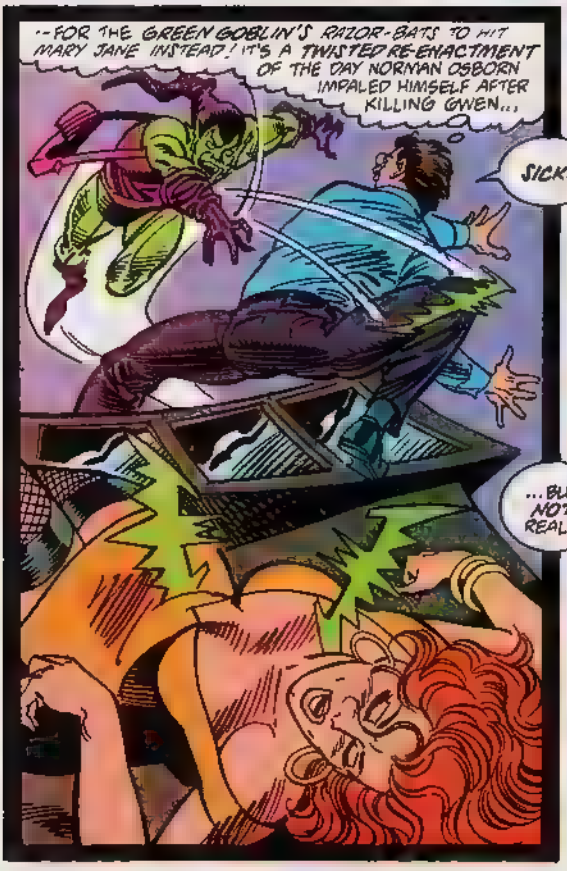
--AND FAMILY?!
GET USED TO IT, KID.
DAILY BUGLE
YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH US TO REACH YOUR DESTINATION.

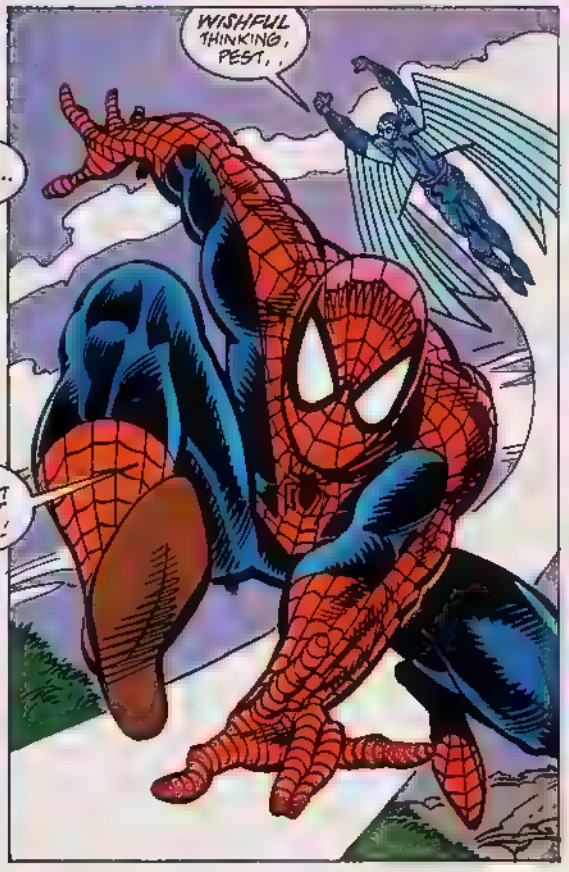
AND EVERYONE KNOWS YOU ALWAYS HURT...
MARY JANE--?!

...THE ONES YOU LOVE!

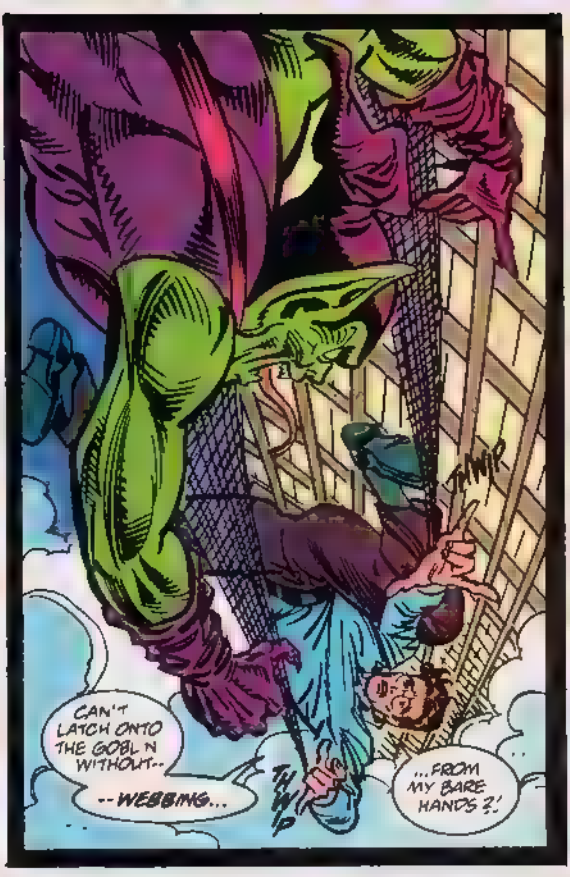
I'M SURE THIS ISN'T ACTUALLY THE ROOF OF MY APARTMENT BUILDING ON EARTH -- AND I KNOW THIS BLOODTHIRSTY VAMP ISN'T TRULY MY WIFE--
ANKLE... TWISTED...
--BUT WHY DO I PERCEIVE MJ AS HER VIXEN CHARACTER ON "SECRET HOSPITAL"?

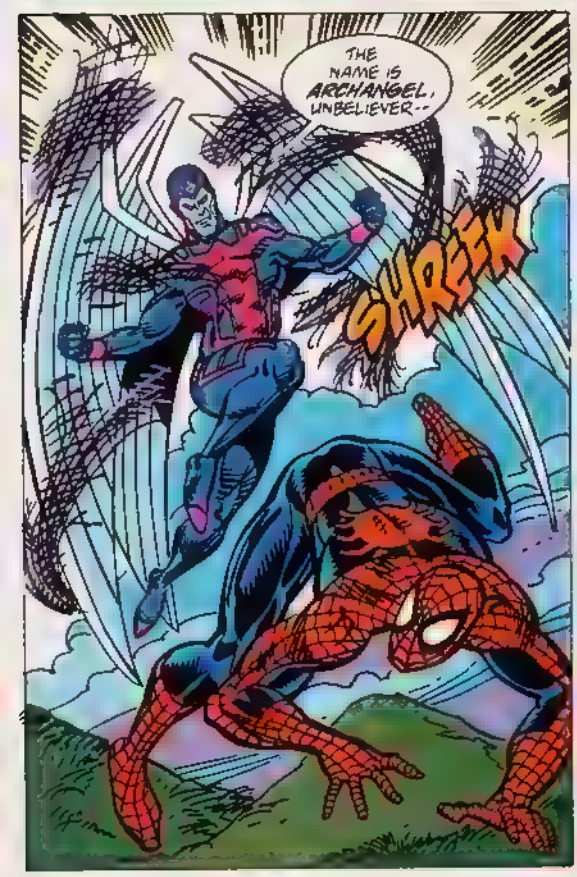

NICE DISTRACTION TECHNIQUE, GAMORA!
SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME JUST IN TIME--


--FOR THE GREEN GOBLIN'S RAZOR-BATS TO HIT MARY JANE INSTEAD! IT'S A TWISTED RE-ENACTMENT OF THE DAY NORMAN OSBORN IMPALED HIMSELF AFTER KILLING GWEN...
SICK...
...BUT NOT REAL!


WISHFUL THINKING, PEST...

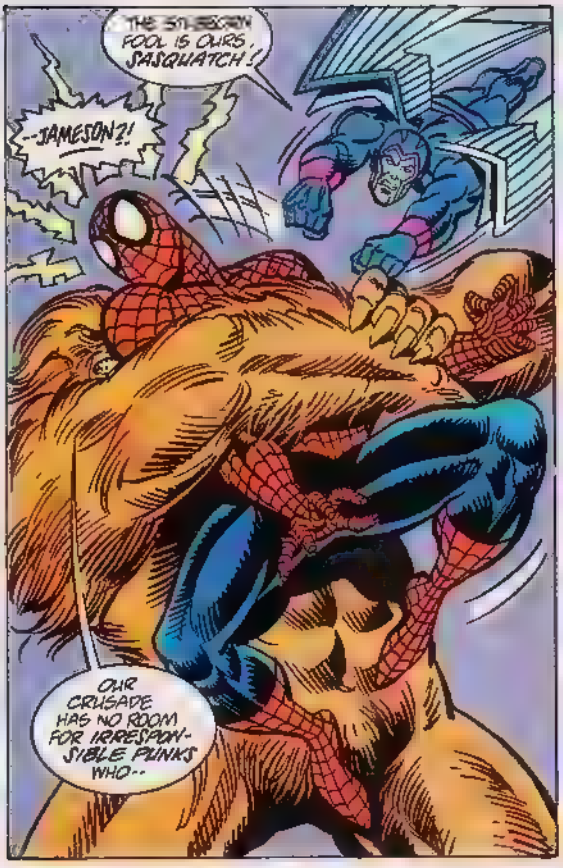
...FLECHETTES MISSED MY TARGET ON THE FIRST PASS--
--SO I'LL DELIVER THE MESSAGE PERSONALLY!
WHOK
UHNN!


CAN'T LATCH ONTO THE GOBLIN WITHOUT--
--WEBBING...
THWIP
THWIP
...FROM MY BARE HANDS?!


THE NAME IS ARCHANGEL, UNBELIEVER--
SHREEK

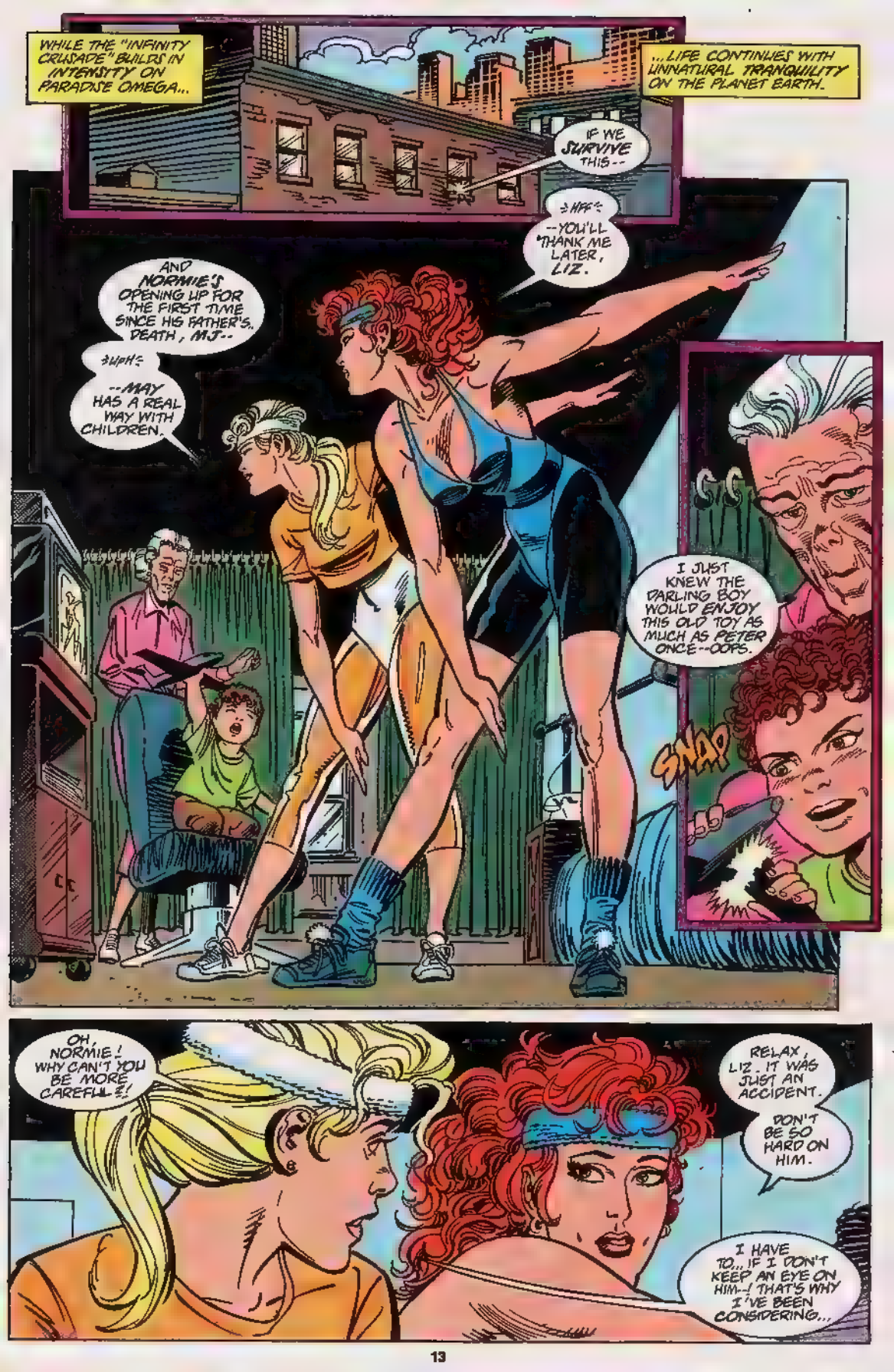
--AND I INTEND TO BREAK YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
"THE GOBLIN'S SKIN UNDER HARRY OSBORN'S COSTUME...?!
"IS THAT WHY I COULDN'T SAVE MY BEST FRIEND FROM HIMSELF IN THE END

...BECAUSE I SECRETLY HELD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS FATHER'S CRIMES?!
FINALLY MADE IT TO THE ROOF OF THE 'BUGLE', BUT WHERE'S JONAH--


THE SINISTER FOOL IS OURS, SASQUATCH!
--JAMESON?!
OUR CRUSADE HAS NO ROOM FOR IRRESPONSIBLE PUNKS WHO--

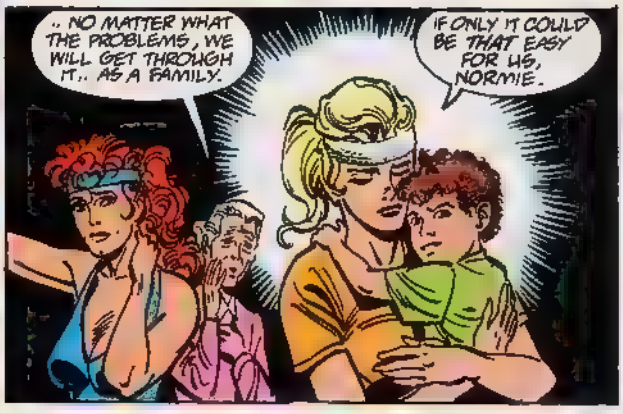
WHFF
--CAN'T CARRY THEIR OWN WEIGHT?!
NEVER BEEN MY PROBLEM, BOSS.

...BUT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO PRIORITIES!
URKK...

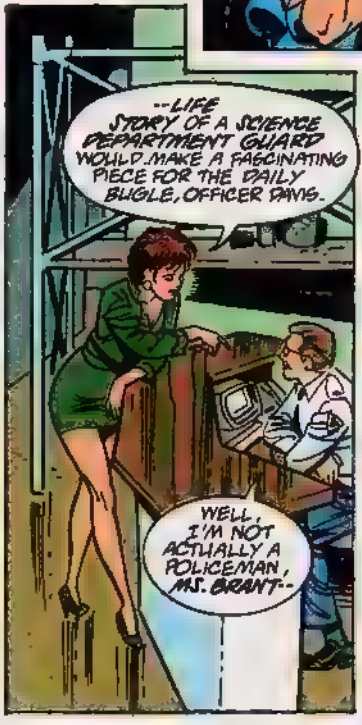

WHILE THE "INFINITY CRUSADE" BUILDS IN INTENSITY ON PARADISE OMEGA...
...LIFE CONTINUES WITH UNNATURAL TRANQUILITY ON THE PLANET EARTH.
IF WE SURVIVE THIS--
--YOU'LL THANK ME LATER, LIZ.
AND NORMIE'S OPENING UP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS FATHER'S DEATH, MJ--
--MAY HAS A REAL WAY WITH CHILDREN.
I JUST KNEW THE DARLING BOY WOULD ENJOY THIS OLD TOY AS MUCH AS PETER ONCE--OOPS.
SNAP
OH, NORMIE! WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE CAREFUL?!
RELAX, LIZ. IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT.
DON'T BE SO HARD ON HIM.
I HAVE TO... IF I DON'T KEEP AN EYE ON HIM--! THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN CONSIDERING...

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, GIRLS...
...BUT I'M BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT PETER.
ACTUALLY, AUNT MAY--

--I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ABOUT HOW THINGS ARE GOING WITH PETER'S PARENTS SINCE THEIR..UNEXPECTED RETURN FROM THE "DEAD."
RICHARD AND MARY WERE--ARE--MY BROTHER-AND SISTER-IN-LAW, MARY JANE DEAR...


..NO MATTER WHAT THE PROBLEMS, WE WILL GET THROUGH IT,. AS A FAMILY.
IF ONLY IT COULD BE THAT EASY FOR US, NORMIE.

ACROSS TOWN...
...EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY SLOWLY RECOVERS FROM ITS OWN RECENT DEVASTATION.


--LIFE STORY OF A SCIENCE DEPARTMENT GUARD WOULD MAKE A FASCINATING PIECE FOR THE DAILY BUGLE, OFFICER DAVIS.
WELL, I'M NOT ACTUALLY A POLICEMAN, MS. BRANT--

BETTY TO YOU...
...JIMBO.
SHE'S COMING ON PRETTY STRONG...

...BUT THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PAID FOR.
SO I'LL CALL AS SOON AS WE CAN MAKE ENOUGH SPACE TO DO YOU JUSTICE, JIMBO.
THIS OLD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HAS BEEN OUT OF THE ACTION FAR TOO LONG...
...AND I COULD CERTAINLY RELEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING--AND LIVING--FROM THIS WOMAN.
WORKED LIKE A CHARM, MR. ROBERTSON...
NEVER DOUBTED YOU FOR A MOMENT, MS BRANT.
HOPE YOU REMEMBER THAT WHEN THE BOSS FINDS OUT WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE HUSH-HUSH GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENT FUNDED BY MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS, ROBBIE...
...AND RUN BY JONAH'S OH-SO-WELL-RESPECTED WIFE.
DR. MARLA MADISON

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This is one Soapbox I couldn't wait to write! I just have to tell you something I learned about the power of Spidey. No, I'm not talking about his strength or his web-swinging — I'm talking about an even greater power — a power that crosses countries, continents, and oceans! If you haven't yet guessed it, I'm talking about your friendly neighborhood wall-crawler's *fame!*

It all happened just a few days ago while I was on a trip to Tokyo with Marvel's peerless president, Merry **Terry Stewart**. We had gone there to start a new Japanese publishing venture in partnership with the world-famous Shogakukan Production Company.

Now, before going any further, you've got to get this picture. Spider-Man is not published in Japan. There are no Spider-Man comic books, no Spidey cartoons, no Spidey toys or games in the Land of the Rising Sun. Nothing! Nada! Zilch! I can almost hear you asking, "So what's the big deal?" Well, *this* is it, O impatient one —

A survey taken in Tokyo revealed that *more than 70%* of the Japanese population actually *know* our wall-crawling wonder! It seems that Spidey's fame has managed to leap-frog clear across the Pacific Ocean! You know how it is — Japanese visitors see our mags in the U.S. and talk about them enthusiastically when they return home. Before you know it, the word spreads like wildfire! In fact, we dressed an actor in a Spider-Man costume and walked through the Tokyo streets with him, just as a gag, to see what would happen. The Japanese people went wild, laughing and cheering as if they'd known him all their lives! It made us realize how truly small the world is becoming and how quickly fame can spread!

Of course, the upshot of the whole thing is that Spidey and many of our other Marvel super heroes will soon be published in Japan where it's expected that they'll be as big a hit as they are elsewhere around the world. But they won't be hitting those far distant shores as strangers. No way! Instead, thanks to Spidey's amazing fame, they'll be greeted like old friends who just happen to have been away too long!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

This summer, there are more comics out than ever before! In fact, the last time we saw this many comics in one place, Bob Hope was putting on a USO show! There are so many new universes starting up, the Watchers are putting in for overtime.

If you're like us, you're probably buying lots of comics this summer .. and possibly even *reading* some of them! But there have got to be other things to do with comics besides just reading and collecting them. That's the puzzle that's been burning in our brains lately. For the answer, we decided to go right to the experts; and who knows more about comics than comic book characters?

Here now we present the views of our own super heroes on this mega-challenging question *what do you do with your comics, besides reading and collecting them?*

The **Incredible Hulk** said, "I used to like to smash them, but I regret that now. If I hadn't smashed my old comic collection, I'd be a rich man today!"

Super-model **Mary Jane Watson-Parker** said, "You asked the right gal, pal! I wrap 'em in tin foil, and use 'em to reflect the sun on my bodacious bod while I'm tanning on the roof!"

The **Human Torch** said, "I like to sell 'em for huge profit! Every comic in my collection is a 'hot' issue!"

Gambit, of the X-Men said, "I like to charge 'zem up, 'zen pass 'zem on to Wolverine! He gets a big bang out of 'zem!"

Daredevil's arch-foe, **Bullseye** said, "I like to fold my comics into deadly weapons, then kill people with them! Hey, in my hands, anything is a weapon!"

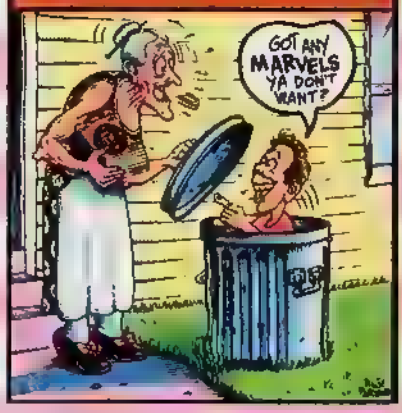
Medusa of the Inhumans said, "I like to roll them up and use them to discipline my dog, Lockjaw, with them! Sometimes I do the same thing to my husband, Black Bolt!"

The **Blob** said, "I eat them! They make a great between meal snack! Some may find it odd that I eat paper, but I'm a mutant, and I'll eat anything! How do you think I got this fat?"

The **Thing** said, "I use 'em to light my great big stinky cigars, just like Tom DeFalco does!"

The **Destroyer** from the Infinity Watch said, "Me use comical books to learn how to count up to 2099! Let's see ... that's one ... two ... 2099!"

THE BULL'S EYE by Rick Parker



The **Kingpin** said, "I don't have any comic books, but if I did, I'd sell them to get money for food! I'm a little down on my luck right now. All I need is some spare change .."

The **Punisher** said, "I hang them from a tree and use them for target practice. I particularly like shooting at mutant books!"

Captain America said, "I like to give them to the orphans down at the hospital!"

John Blaze said, "I like to roll them up and stick them between the spokes of my bike! They make a really cool sound when I'm chasing down some demon or weirdo!

Conan the Barbarian said, "I cover my body with them and use them for a blanket! Crom, but those nights in Cimmeria can chill a warrior's bones!"

Finally, we have **Aunt May**, who said, "What do you think I do with them? I'm an old lady! I throw them away, of course!"

Thanks, Aunt May! It's nice to know that some things never change!

WIN AN *X-MEN* SEGA *GENESIS* VIDEO GAME!

Pizza Hut's X-Men promotion begins August 7! Find the error on the Mutant Aptitude Test #1 placemat and you could win! Send your name address and correct answer on a 3x5 card to:

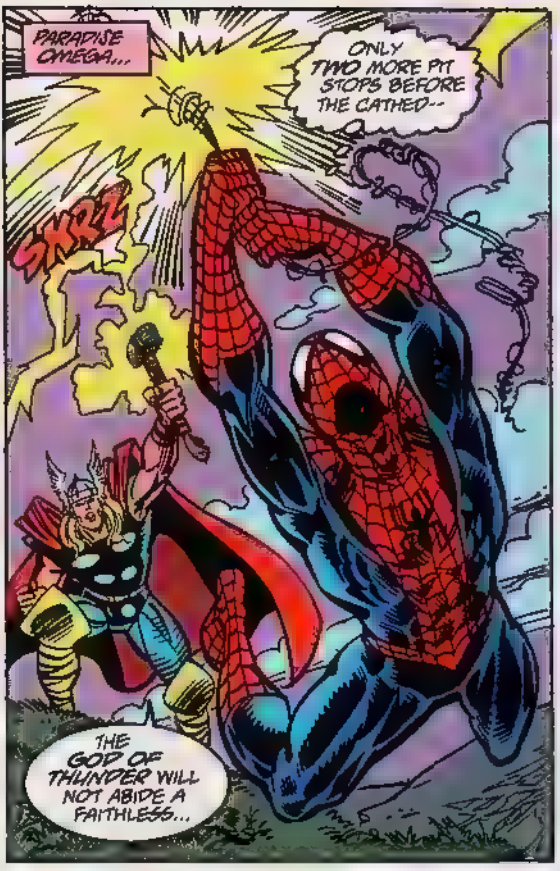
Mutant Aptitude Test
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016.

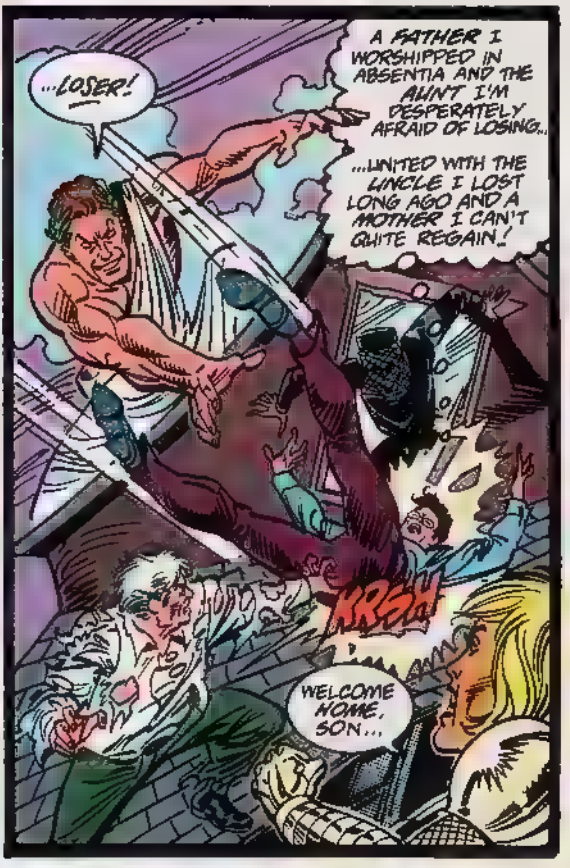
One entry per person; No Marvel or Pizza Hut employees; Deadline 8/30

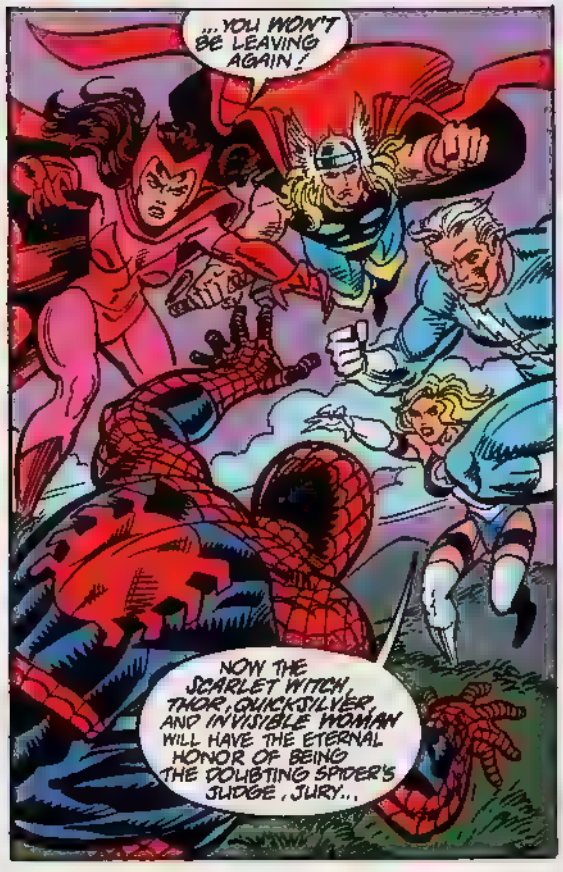
HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #125:** INFINITY CRUSADE crossover!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #382:** The Hulk stomps in!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #16 MARVEL MILESTONE:** Reprinting the classic line-up change!
- ☐ **BARBIE #34:** A fortune teller reveals Barbie 2099!
- ☐ **DARKHOLD #13:** Enter the **Missing Link!** (No, not the guy from he Mod Squad!)
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #42:** Shot down in a Blaze of glory!
- ☐ **GROO TPB: FESTIVAL:** The festivities are just beginning!
- ☐ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #41:** Meet the 31st century **Thor!**
- ☐ **HYPERKIND #2:** You could get a papercut by shaving with the Razorline!
- ☐ **LETHAL FOES OF SPIDER-MAN #2 OF 4:** Take a number to kill Spidey!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SPECIAL #15:** Thor in drag? WA-HOOO!
- ☐ **MORBIUS REVISITED #3 Of 5:** Who the heck is **Helleyes?**
- ☐ **NIGHT THRASHER #3:** Melee in Madripoor!
- ☐ **PSYCHONAUTS #1 OF 4:** And the *Anachronauts* still don't have their own series!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #22:** Frank takes down 'Nam's and numbers!
- ☐ **QUASAR #51:** The **Squadron Supreme** guest stars!
- ☐ **RAVAGE 2099 #11:** Meet Ravage's family!
- ☐ **SABRETOOTH #3 OF 4:** Sabe learns that he is a daddy!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #214:** It's sword-swingin' excitement!
- ☐ **SECRET DEFENDERS #8:** It's the end of the world as we know it (and I feel fine)!
- ☐ **SILVER SABLE #17:** INFINITY CRUSADE crossover!
- ☐ **SLEEPWALKER #29:** It's a nightmare when Sleepy turns evil!
- ☐ **WILD THING #7:** We have to hype new artist Bryan Hitch! (Okay, so we're Hitch-hyping!)
- ☐ **WOLVERINE #74:** Saga of the [illegible]!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #28:** Wonder Man goes to Asgard!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #95:** Pick up this issue in Russian!
- ☐ **X-MEN ADVENTURES #12:** The fate of Archangel!
- ☐ **X-MEN ANNUAL #2:** Introducing Empyrean!

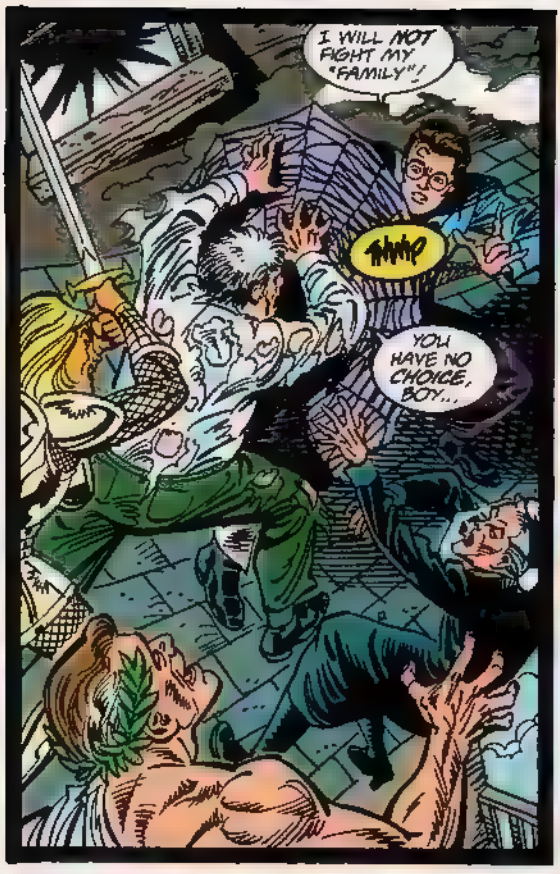
...FOLLOWING BULLPEN BORDERLINE FEATURES COPYRIGHT OF DARTA WORK OF THE ARTIST...


PARADISE OMEGA...
ONLY TWO MORE PIT STOPS BEFORE THE CATHED--
SKRZZ
THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL NOT ABIDE A FAITHLESS...

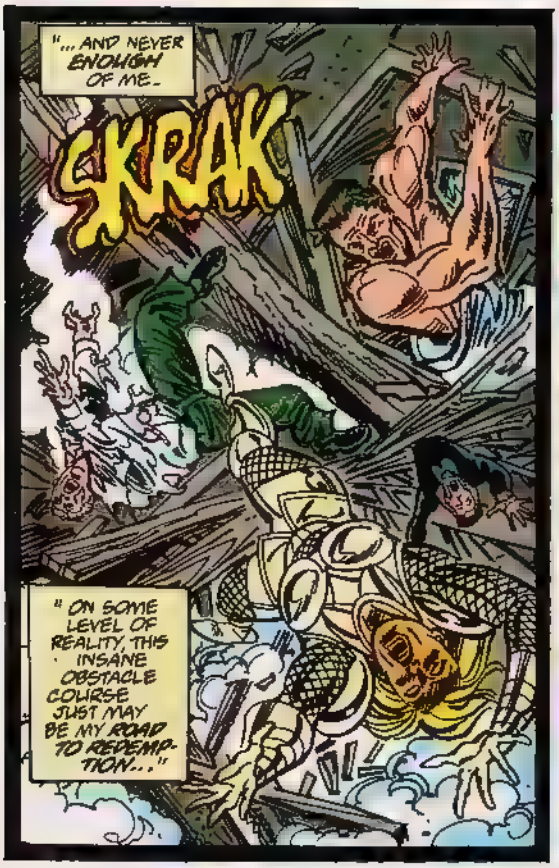

A FATHER I WORSHIPPED IN ABSENTIA AND THE AUNT I'M DESPERATELY AFRAID OF LOSING..
...UNITED WITH THE UNCLE I LOST LONG AGO AND A MOTHER I CAN'T QUITE REGAIN!
...LOSER!
KRSH
WELCOME HOME, SON...

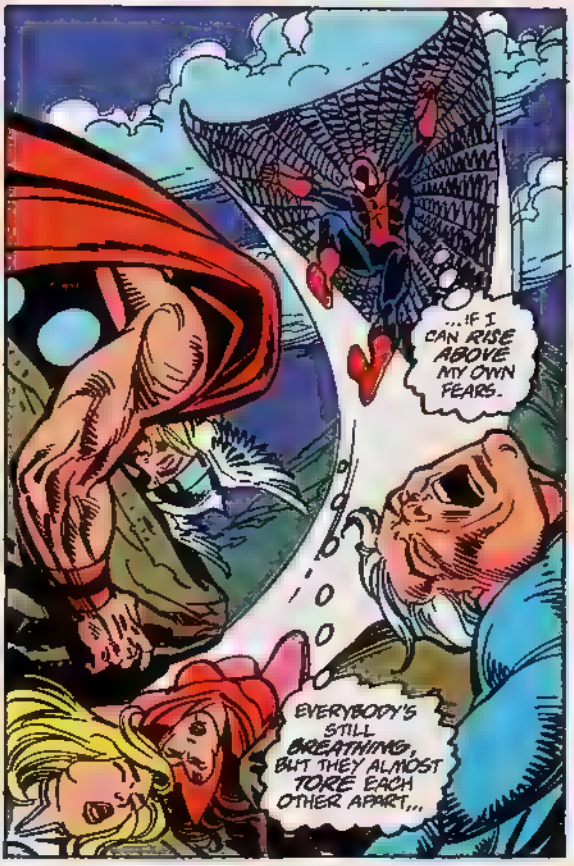

...YOU WON'T BE LEAVING AGAIN!
NOW THE SCARLET WITCH, THOR, QUICKSILVER, AND INVISIBLE WOMAN WILL HAVE THE ETERNAL HONOR OF BEING THE DOUBTING SPIDER'S JUDGE, JURY...

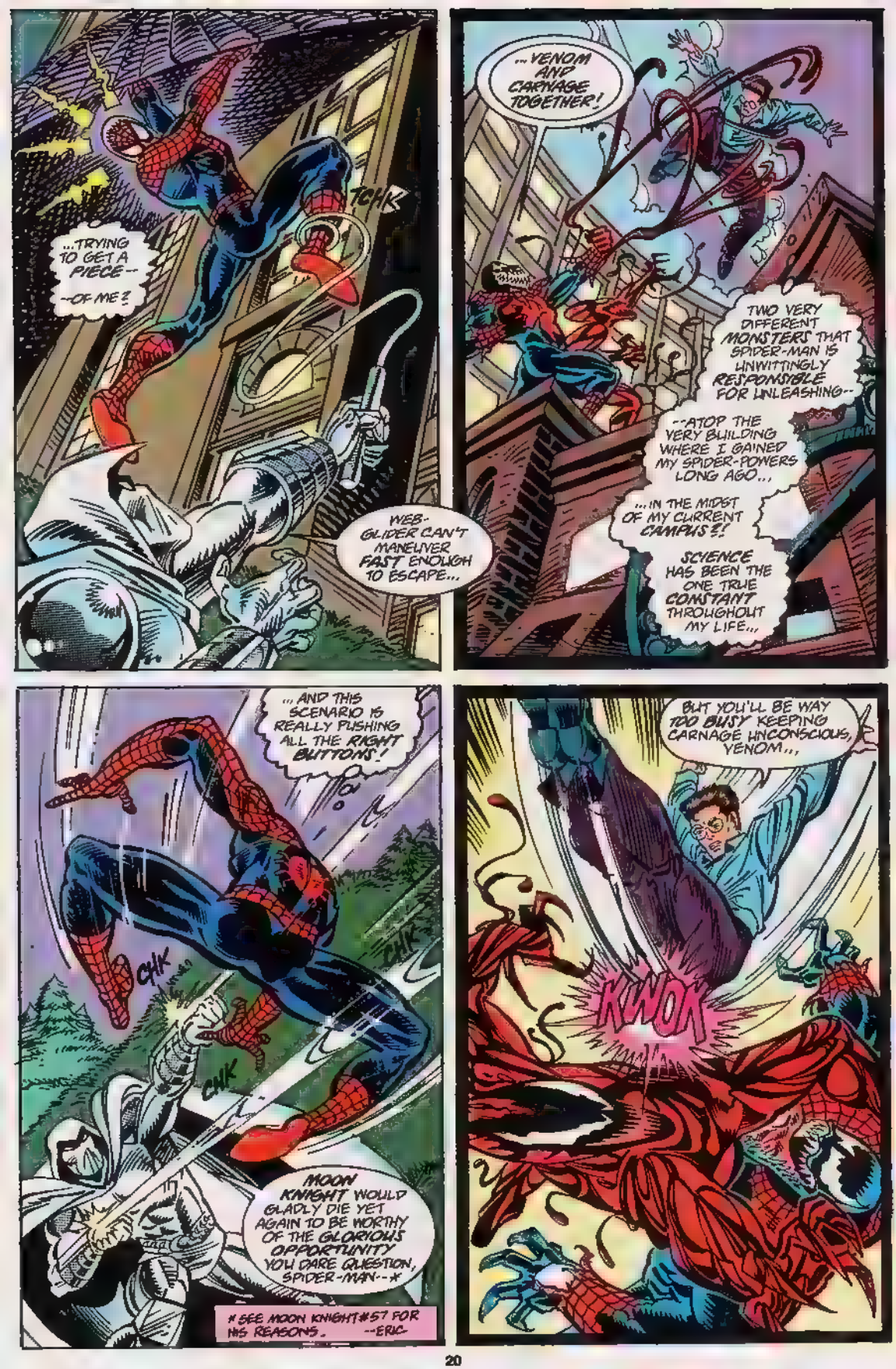
...AND EXECUTIONERS!
NO!
THWIP


I WILL NOT FIGHT MY "FAMILY"!
THWIP
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, BOY...

...NO ONE REALLY DOES!
TOO MANY OF THEM...
KNIFE
OOM


"...AND NEVER ENOUGH OF ME.
SKRAK
"ON SOME LEVEL OF REALITY, THIS INSANE OBSTACLE COURSE JUST MAY BE MY ROAD TO REDEMPTION..."

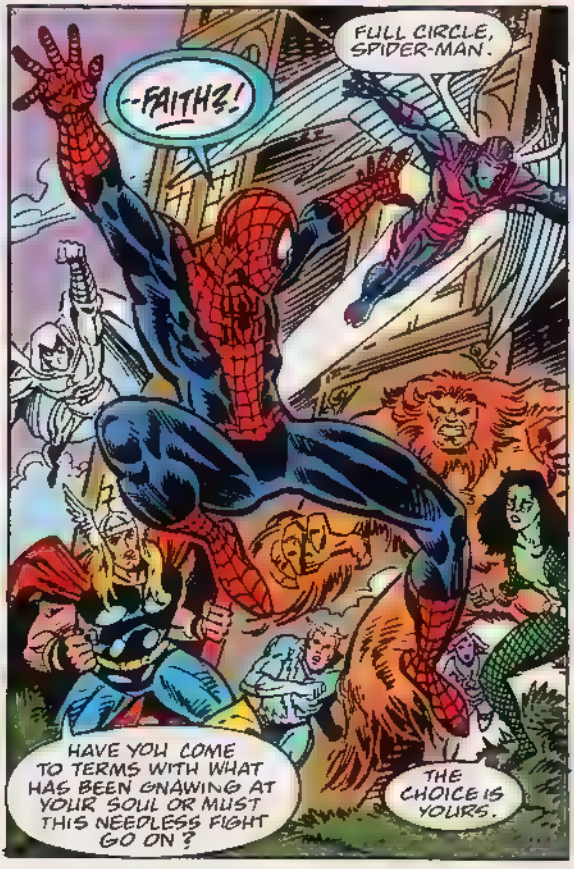

...IF I CAN RISE ABOVE MY OWN FEARS.
EVERYBODY'S STILL BREATHING, BUT THEY ALMOST TORE EACH OTHER APART...

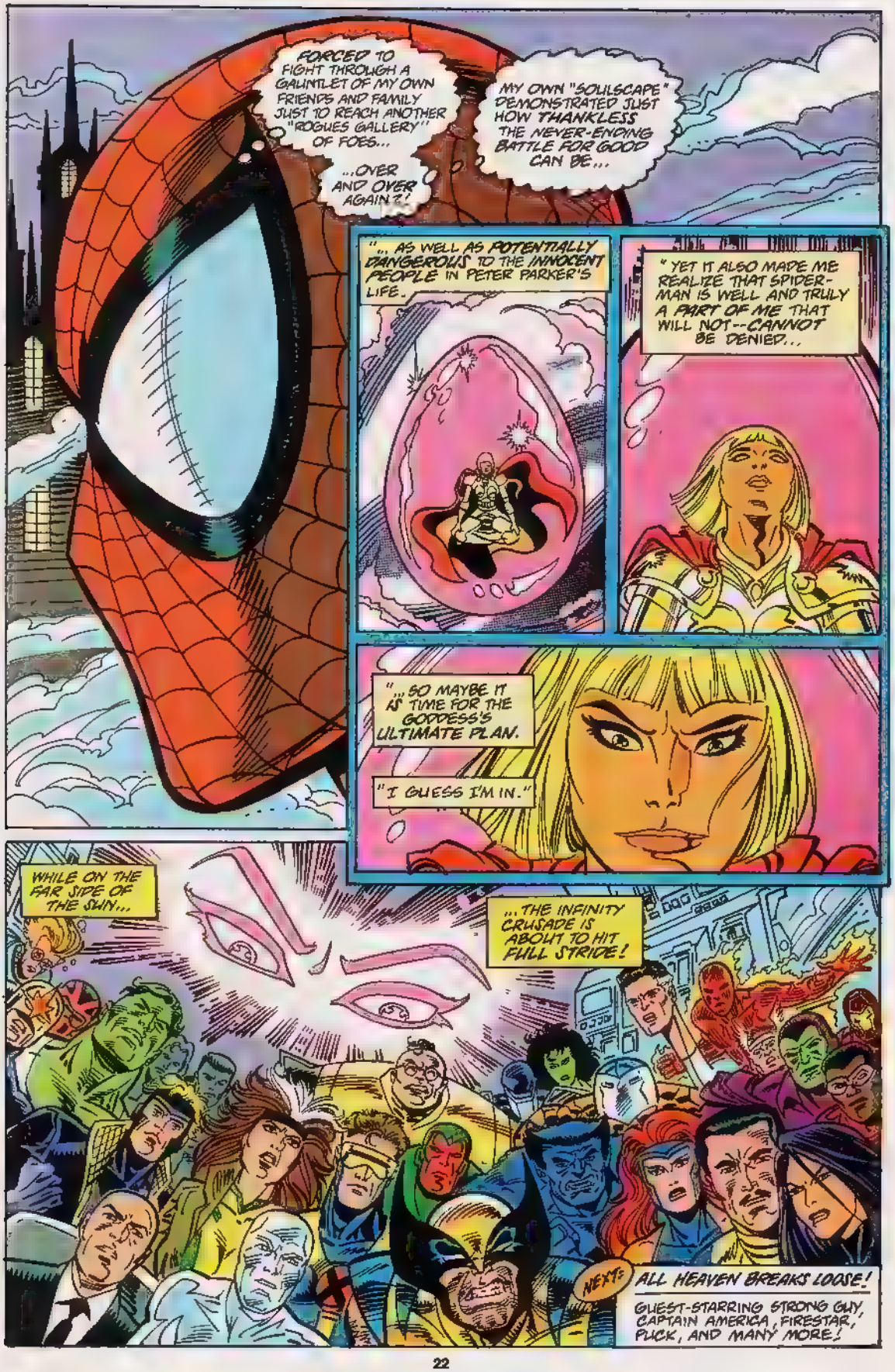

...TRYING TO GET A PIECE--
--OF ME?
TCHK
WEB-GLIDER CAN'T MANEUVER FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE...
...VENOM AND CARNAGE TOGETHER!
TWO VERY DIFFERENT MONSTERS THAT SPIDER-MAN IS UNWITTINGLY RESPONSIBLE FOR UNLEASHING--
--ATOP THE VERY BUILDING WHERE I GAINED MY SPIDER-POWERS LONG AGO...
...IN THE MIDST OF MY CURRENT CAMPUS?!
SCIENCE HAS BEEN THE ONE TRUE CONSTANT THROUGHOUT MY LIFE...
...AND THIS SCENARIO IS REALLY PUSHING ALL THE RIGHT BUTTONS!
CHK
CHK
CHK
MOON KNIGHT WOULD GLADLY DIE YET AGAIN TO BE WORTHY OF THE GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY YOU DARE QUESTION, SPIDER-MAN--*
* SEE MOON KNIGHT #57 FOR HIS REASONS. --ERIC-
BUT YOU'LL BE WAY TOO BUSY KEEPING CARNAGE UNCONSCIOUS, VENOM...
KWOK

.. OR NOT. A LEGION OF "CARNAGES"-- --WHEREVER THEY CAME FROM-- IS MORE THAN I'M READY TO DEAL WITH SO SOON AFTER OUR RECENT CONFRONTATION ..

...PROBABLY MORE THAN I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO HANDLE.
THE DOUBTER'S TENSING TO JUMP, MULTIPLE MEN...

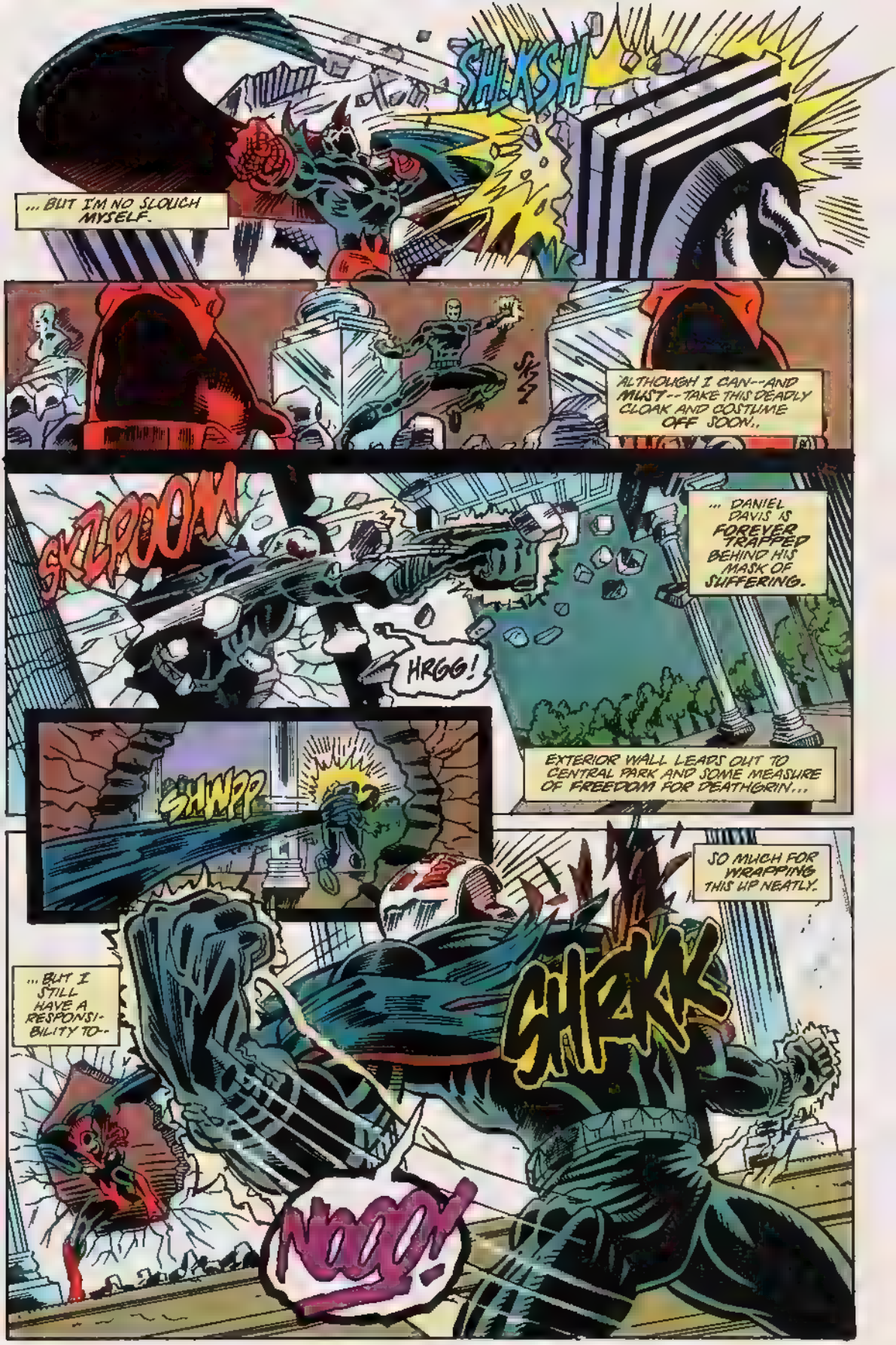
...BUT HE CAN'T EXPECT TO REACH THE GODDESS'S CATHEDRAL FROM HERE!
CONSIDER IT A LEAP OF--


--FAITH?!
FULL CIRCLE, SPIDER-MAN.
HAVE YOU COME TO TERMS WITH WHAT HAS BEEN GNAWING AT YOUR SOUL OR MUST THIS NEEDLESS FIGHT GO ON?
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

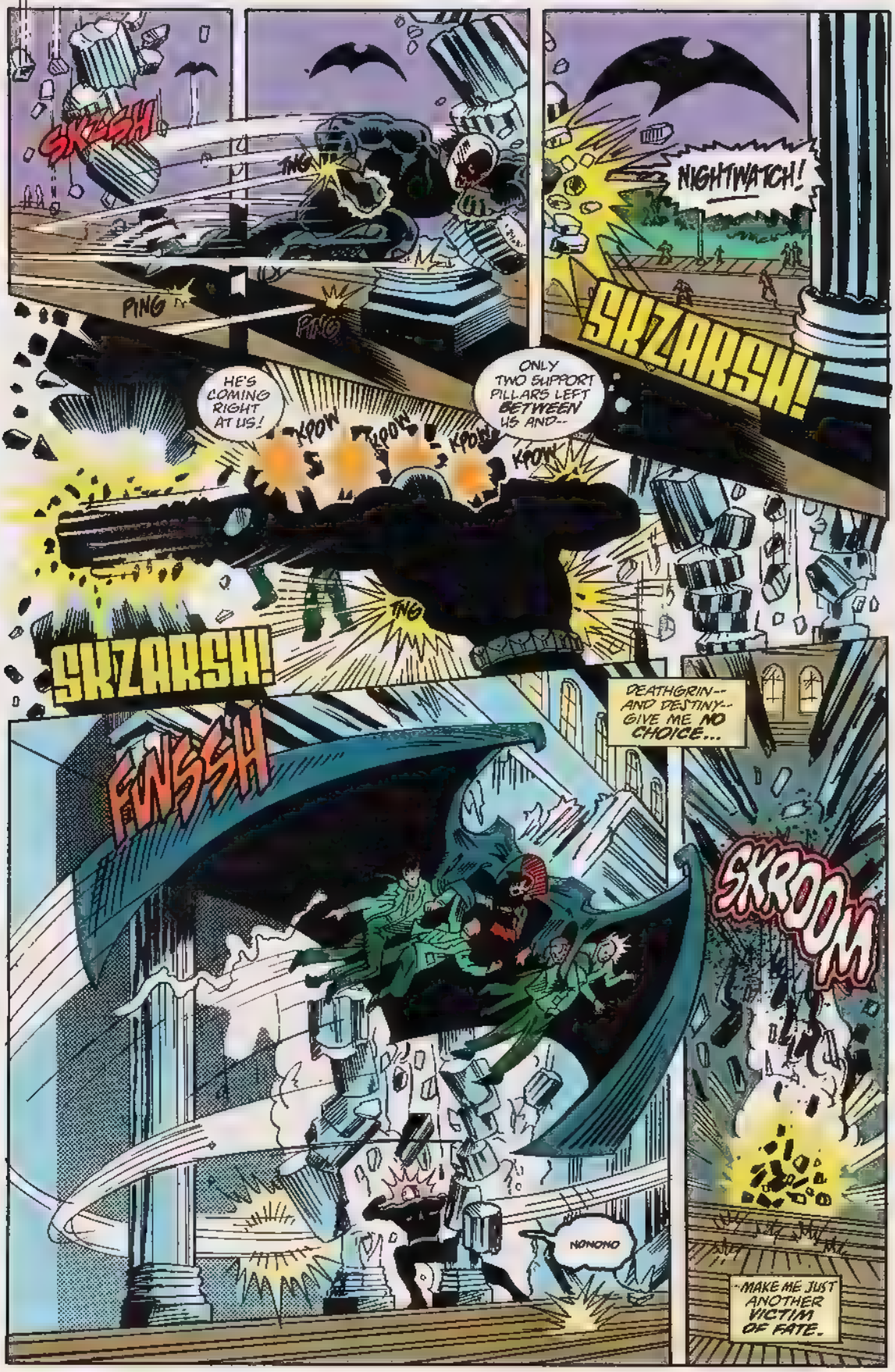

FORCED TO FIGHT THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MY OWN FRIENDS AND FAMILY JUST TO REACH ANOTHER "ROGUES GALLERY" OF FOES...
...OVER AND OVER AGAIN?!
MY OWN "SOULSCAPE" DEMONSTRATED JUST HOW THANKLESS THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR GOOD CAN BE...
"...AS WELL AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TO THE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN PETER PARKER'S LIFE.
"YET IT ALSO MADE ME REALIZE THAT SPIDER-MAN IS WELL AND TRULY A PART OF ME THAT WILL NOT--CANNOT BE DENIED...
"...SO MAYBE IT IS TIME FOR THE GODDESS'S ULTIMATE PLAN.
"I GUESS I'M IN."
WHILE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN...
...THE INFINITY CRUSADE IS ABOUT TO HIT FULL STRIDE!
NEXT:
ALL HEAVEN BREAKS LOOSE!
GUEST-STARRING STRONG GUY, CAPTAIN AMERICA, FIRESTAR, PUCK, AND MANY MORE!

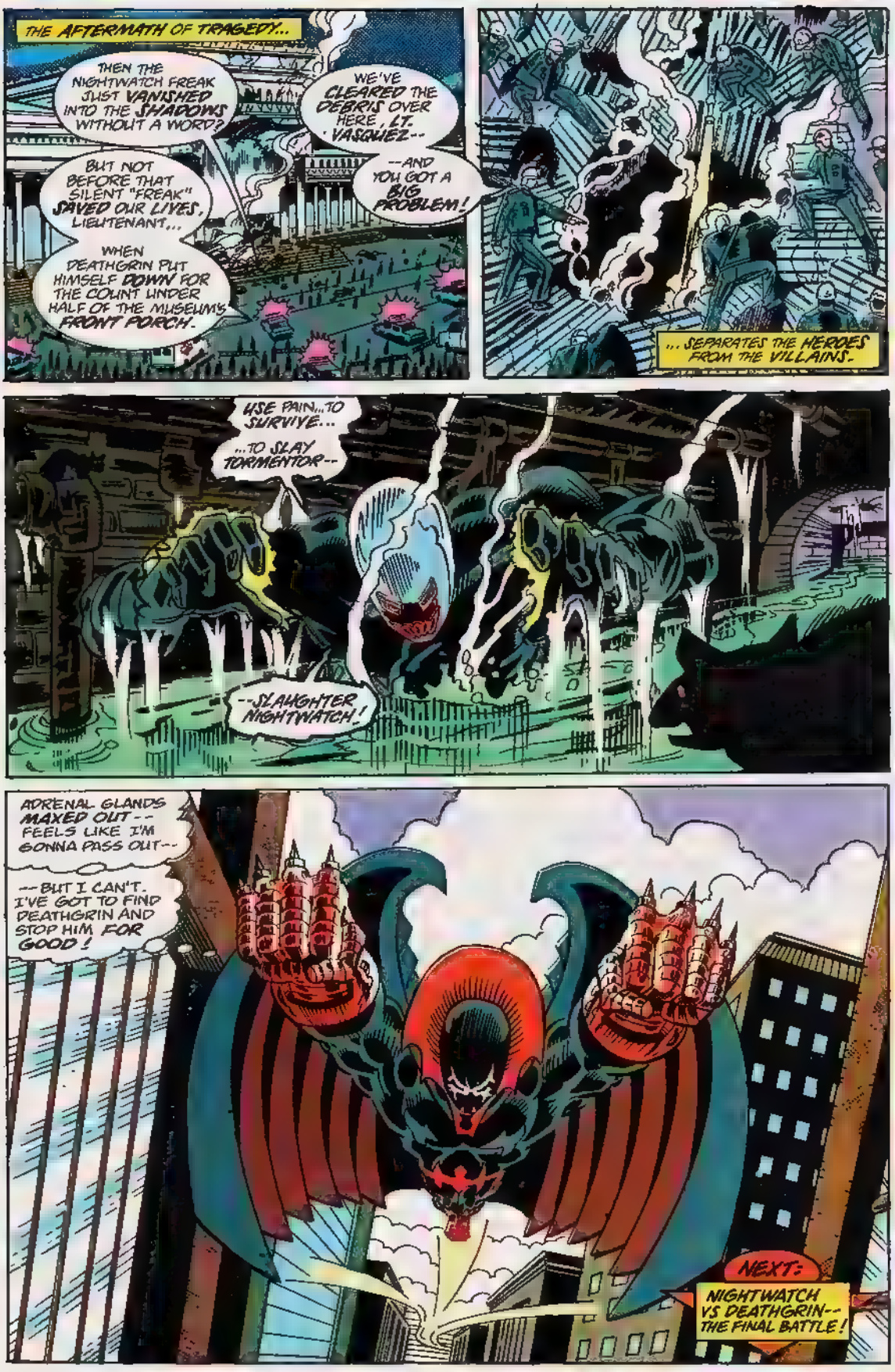
STAN LEE PRESENTS
NIGHTWATCH IN
ACID TEST
NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS...
...COURTESY OF THE DERANGED DEATHGRIN!
SKZZK
KEAGH!
SKZZK
NIGHTWATCH CREATED BY TERRY KAVANAGH & ALEX SAVIUK
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
BILL WYLIE PENCILER
TIMOTHY TUOHY INKER
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
ERIC FEIN EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
DANIEL DAVIS CAME HERE TONIGHT AS AN AFTER-HOURS PATRON OF THE ARTS -- WITH A PARTICULARLY HANDS-ON APPROACH TO THE MORE VALUABLE MERCHANDISE...
-- BUT THE MASTER THIEF HAD A REALLY BAD BLOOD REACTION TO AN ANCIENT MACEDONIAN DEATHMASK...

GRAAR!
...THANKS TO MY LAST-MINUTE INTERFERENCE.*
I JUST WANTED TO GET HOME--OR WHAT PASSES FOR IT THESE DAYS TO WHAT'S LEFT OF KEVIN TRENCH--
*LAST ISSUE.--ERIC
ROOTIK
YAIII!
--BUT FATE HAS HAD OTHER PLANS FOR NIGHTWATCH SINCE DAY ONE.
CONTACT WITH DEATHGRIN BURNED.
...AND MY FOOT WON'T HEAL AS FAST AS MY BOOT.
REE-
...ANY MORE THAN HE THINKS I ALREADY HAVE.
BETWEEN HIS "PETRIFIED SKIN AND THE PAIN OF THE ARCANE ACIDS COURSING THROUGH HIS BLOODSTREAM, I CAN'T HURT DEATHGRIN...
--AARGH!
THE REACTION FROM DONNING THE MASK SEEMS TO HAVE ALTERED DAVIS'S PHYSIOLOGY--GIVING HIM UNNATURAL STRENGTH AND NEAR INVULNERABILITY...


SHKSH
... BUT I'M NO SLOUCH MYSELF.
SKZZ
ALTHOUGH I CAN--AND MUST--TAKE THIS DEADLY CLOAK AND COSTUME OFF SOON..
SKZPOOM
... DANIEL DAVIS IS FOREVER TRAPPED BEHIND HIS MASK OF SUFFERING.
HRGG!
EXTERIOR WALL LEADS OUT TO CENTRAL PARK AND SOME MEASURE OF FREEDOM FOR DEATHGRIN...
SHWPP
SO MUCH FOR WRAPPING THIS UP NEATLY.
... BUT I STILL HAVE A RESPONSI-BILITY TO--
SHRKK
NOOO!

I CAN'T SEEM TO DO ANYTHING RIGHT ..
YOUUU!
.. LIKE WHEN I APPARENTLY KILLED THE WOMAN I LOVE TRYING TO SAVE HER A LONG, DARK DECADE AGO. THAT EVEN CLOTHED IN THE GARB OF NIGHTWATCH--
--KEVIN TRENCH IS MERELY A MAN OF POWER WHO ENDS UP DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
THERE THEY ARE!
DIEEE!
SKRAASH
..NEVER A HERO.
FEAR!
SECURITY GUARDS I RESCUED--FINALLY ROUNDED UP THE CAVALRY...
*LAST ISSUE --ERIC
... SO DEATHGRIN IS THEIR PROBLEM NOW.
KOOW
KOOW
KOOW
TNG
TNG
TNG
NIGHTWATCH CHARACTER FLEW THE COOP ALREADY--!
AND THIS MONSTER'S NOT GOING DOWN!


SKSSH
TNG
PING
PING
NIGHTWATCH!
SKZARSH!
HE'S COMING RIGHT AT US!
KPOW
KPOW
KPOW
KPOW
ONLY TWO SUPPORT PILLARS LEFT BETWEEN US AND--
TNG
SKZARSH!
FWSSH
DEATHGRIN--AND DESTINY--GIVE ME NO CHOICE...
SKROOM
NONONO
--MAKE ME JUST ANOTHER VICTIM OF FATE.


THE AFTERMATH OF TRAGEDY...
THEN THE NIGHTWATCH FREAK JUST VANISHED INTO THE SHADOWS WITHOUT A WORD?
WE'VE CLEARED THE DEBRIS OVER HERE, LT. VASQUEZ--
--AND YOU GOT A BIG PROBLEM!
BUT NOT BEFORE THAT SILENT "FREAK" SAVED OUR LIVES, LIEUTENANT...
WHEN DEATHGRIN PUT HIMSELF DOWN FOR THE COUNT UNDER HALF OF THE MUSELIM'S FRONT PORCH.
...SEPARATES THE HEROES FROM THE VILLAINS.
USE PAIN...TO SURVIVE...
...TO SLAY TORMENTOR--
--SLAUGHTER NIGHTWATCH!
ADRENAL GLANDS MAXED OUT--FEELS LIKE I'M GONNA PASS OUT--
--BUT I CAN'T. I'VE GOT TO FIND DEATHGRIN AND STOP HIM FOR GOOD!
NEXT:
NIGHTWATCH VS DEATHGRIN--THE FINAL BATTLE!

WEB-ZINGERS

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ERIC FEIN
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents. All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Boy, do we have tons of mail to sort through for our *Maximum Carnage* crossover! So, without further ado...

Dear Web Crew,

I just had to write after reading WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #101. Alex Saviuk did another awesome job and I especially loved his Carnage!

What's going to happen to Nightwatch? Is he going to have his own book or limited series? And I would like you to bring back the Ghost from the 1991 Annuals, *"The Vibranium Vendetta"*.

Keep up the good work!

Matt Moss
945 20th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

Glad you were impressed with Alex's pencils, Matt. Just wait until you see how he renders our upcoming guest stars Puck, Strong Guy, and Firestar! And be looking for a NIGHTWATCH limited series in '94! It'll be awesome!

Dear Webheads,

Outstanding issue! My compliments to Terry, Alex, Don, Steve, and Bob—I must sound like I just won an Oscar! They did tremendous work on WEB #101.

The *Maximum Carnage* series has been great so far, but that's not the only reason that I bought this book. The cover is wicked! It jumped out at me in the comic book store and I had to get it. Alex Saviuk did a great job. I can't wait until the next part of the series when Venom jumps into the action.

A few questions. Will MJ quit smoking soon? Will we be seeing the Spider-Armor again any time soon?

Colin Skrapek
329 Capilano Place
Saskatoon, Sask., Canada
S7K 4J7

A wicked cover, huh? That's what Carnage said!

To answer your questions, Colin, our wall-crawling hero may very well deem it necessary to don the armor again. Keep reading. As for your concern over MJ's health, you will indeed see a wrap-up to the controversial "Smoking Storyline" in these pages, and in our AMAZING SPIDER-MAN title. Unlike smoking, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN will not stunt your growth.

Dear Arachnids,

I have been collecting your book since issue #52. Now, almost 50 issues later, I had to write in with my comments. I think that Alex Saviuk does some of the best art in comics today. Issue #101 has definitely proved that. So far, *Maximum Carnage* is looking pretty good. I am eagerly awaiting issue #102.

A few suggestions:

Keep Alex Saviuk—don't ever let him go! And how about appearances by the following heroes: Captain America, Wolverine, and Quasar? As for villains, how about Sabretooth, Doc Ock, and maybe even the first meeting between Spidey and Deadpool?

Eddie Teller
110 Willow Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Gosh, Eddie, our buddy Alex is blushing so bright red that he looks like Carnage! Thanks for all the nice words.

As for your list of suggested guest appearances, we just featured the Red, White & Blue Avenger in the recent *Maximum Carnage* crossover, and he'll return in the third part of our INFINITY CRUSADE crossover next issue. We also don't have any plans for Wolvie or Quasar yet.

But, on the bad guy front, you can find Sabretooth in the recent bookshelf edition of DESIGNER GENES, by WEB scribe Terry Kavanagh, LETHAL FOES OF SPIDER-MAN artist Scott McDaniel, and WARLOCK CHRONICLES inker Keith Williams. That eight-armed master of menace, Doc Ock is featured in a very special story in SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #3, in which we reveal Ock's mysterious past. As for Deadpool, he just looks too darn much like Spidey...how could we tell them apart? (Oh, okay, maybe we will let him guest-star sometime.)

Dear Webheads,

I've got to hand it to ya, WEB #101 was awesome! I loved how Alex drew Carnage, and Mary Jane looked pretty good in blonde hair!

Hey, after *Maximum Carnage*, are we going to see any more of the Lizard?

Until Spidey, Venom & Carnage, and Aunt May have a tea party, Make Mine Marvel!

Matt Wilson
503 Birkdale Ct.
Yorktown VA 23693

Actually, Matt, Mary Jane doesn't have blonde hair in that scene, it's just the bright light of the TV screen. Anyhow, if you want to keep tabs on that scaly, green guy with the tail, you can check out the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #27 that came out a few months back, to find out what happened to Dr. Curt Connors after turning himself in to the cops in AMAZING #365. Then, keep your eyes on the pages of this very book for further developments in the life of everyone's favorite Lizard!

Dear Spidey Crew,

I enjoyed the first two parts of *Maximum Carnage*. Alex Saviuk could be the next Joe Jusko! I've got a question or two for you:

Will we see any more of Tombstone? What happened to the Chameleon? Will we see Venom anymore? Will you please print my letter? (I've never had one printed.)

Your most loyal fan!

Mark Horton
(Address withheld)

Boy, are you ever gonna see Tombstone! Check out SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #204, for a three-part story featuring that albino-skinned, gravel-voiced, avenging angel of death by new regular-writer Steven Grant, our pal Sal Buscema, and new regular-editor Mark Powers.

As for the Chameleon, he appeared in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #27. Will he appear again? In a major way. Keep watching. Finally, that Venom guy can be found in his current limited series, FUNERAL PYRE, featuring the PUNISHER, to be followed by yet another limited series, titled THE MADNESS, in which he goes up against the X-Men's enemy, the Juggernaut. Don't miss either of these, or Venom will eat your brain!

Dear Web Heads,

Why doesn't Peter spend more time at home?

Brad "Marvel" Thurlow
1755 Berry Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Gosh, Brad, if he did, then our comics wouldn't have nearly as many bad guys in them, and we'd have to retitle the book "Make Room For Spidey," or "Spidey Knows Best." Think we'll stick with WEB, thanks. But Mary Jane says she agrees with *you*.

NEXT ISSUE: Terry, Alex, and new inker on the block Stephen Baskerville combine their super powers to bring you the action-packed conclusion to our INFINITY WAR crossover, which features Captain America, Firestar, and that bundle of fun, Puck! PLUS: The further adventures of Nightwatch!

...BUT I'M LOOKING FOR THE GODDESS HERSELF!
YOU SEE AND HEAR ONLY WHAT YOU WANT--NEED--TO SEE AND HEAR, SPIDER-MAN...
...SUCH IS THE HIGH PRICE OF ENLIGHTENMENT!
AND PARADISE IS ALL BUT LOST TO ONE LONE SOUL...
CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE PART 2
SOUL GAUNTLET
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK BREAKDOWNS
DON HUDSON FINISHES
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
ERIC FEIN EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

BLOOD RELATIONS

IN THE CATHEDRAL ON PARADISE OMEGA, DR. STRANGE AND OTHERS ARE STILL IN THE MENTAL THRALL OF THE ABSENT GODDESS...*
REED RICHARDS AND HIS COMRADES HAVE RETURNED TO AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
BROTHER STRANGE, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OUR ENEMY HAS NO WAY OF DETECTING YOUR BREACHING THEIR SECURITY?
SISTER MOON-DRAGON--

ROY THOMAS
WRITER/CO-PLOTTER
GEOF ISHERWOOD
ARTIST/CO-PLOTTER
PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR SUPREME

* AS SEEN IN INFINITY CRUSADE #3. --MIKE

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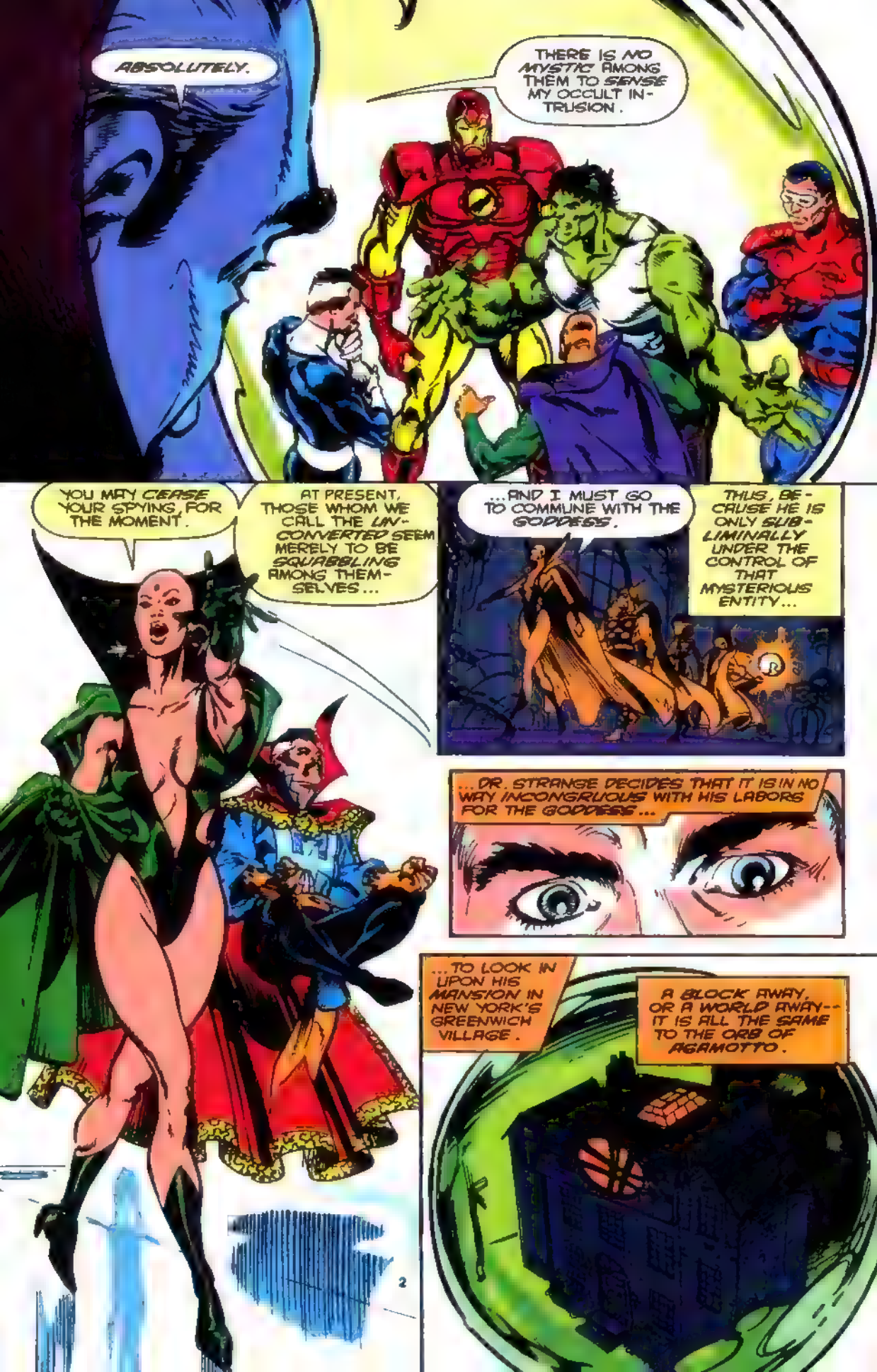
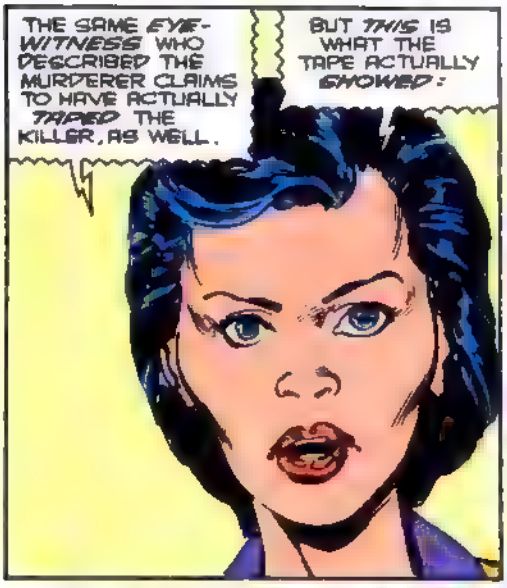
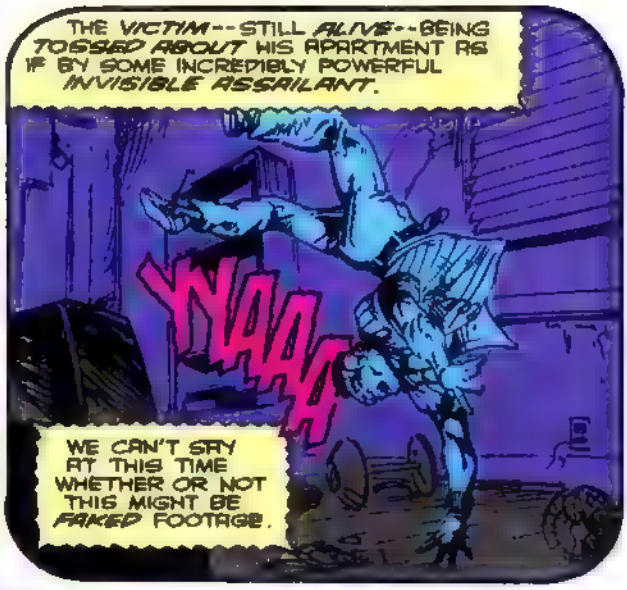

ABSOLUTELY.
THERE IS NO MYSTIC AMONG THEM TO SENSE MY OCCULT INTRUSION.
YOU MAY CEASE YOUR SPYING, FOR THE MOMENT.
AT PRESENT, THOSE WHOM WE CALL THE UNCONVERTED SEEM MERELY TO BE SQUABBLING AMONG THEMSELVES...
...AND I MUST GO TO COMMUNE WITH THE GODDESS.
THUS, BECAUSE HE IS ONLY SUBLIMINALLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THAT MYSTERIOUS ENTITY...
...DR. STRANGE DECIDES THAT IT IS IN NO WAY INCONGRUOUS WITH HIS LABORS FOR THE GODDESS...
...TO LOOK IN UPON HIS MANSION IN NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE.
A BLOCK AWAY, OR A WORLD AWAY--IT IS ALL THE SAME TO THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO.
2

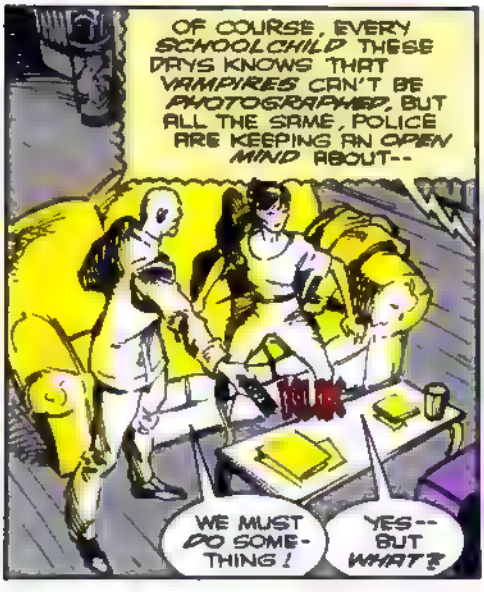
EVERYTHING SEEMS PEACEFUL WITH WONG AND HIS FIANCEE, IMEI...
...TWO OF THOSE WHOM, STEPHEN FEELS CERTAIN, THE GODDESS WILL SAVE.
HOW IDYLLIC THEIR LIFE MUST BE AT THE MOMENT, WITH NO EVIL TRANSPIRING ON EARTH'S GREEN FACE.
AND YET--THEY DO NOT SEEM AS BLISSFUL AS THEY COULD.
PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO TURN UP THE SOUND...
--AND IT'S BEEN TEN HOURS SINCE THE LAST CRIME WAS REPORTED TO ANY REPUTABLE SOURCE--
--UNTIL NOW!
A MAN HAS BEEN HORRIBLY MURDERED ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE.
NEWS 8
THIS IS AN ARTIST'S SKETCH OF THE MURDERER, AS SEEN BY THE ONLY KNOWN EYEWITNESS--
--A FRIEND OF THE DECEASED.
ARTIST'S CONCEPTION
THE PICTURE MATCHES DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SO-CALLED "MASKED VAMPIRE" SEEN SOME TIME AGO IN VARIOUS PARTS OF MANHATTAN...
IMEI--IT'S--
I KNOW.
VICTOR!
HERE IS FOOTAGE OF THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, MOMENTS AFTER THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED BY A POLICEMAN WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A CAMERA CREW FROM THE SERIES "MEN IN BLUE."
WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE NEXT, HOWEVER, IS SOME OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL AND DISTURBING FOOTAGE THIS STATION HAS EVER SHOWN...

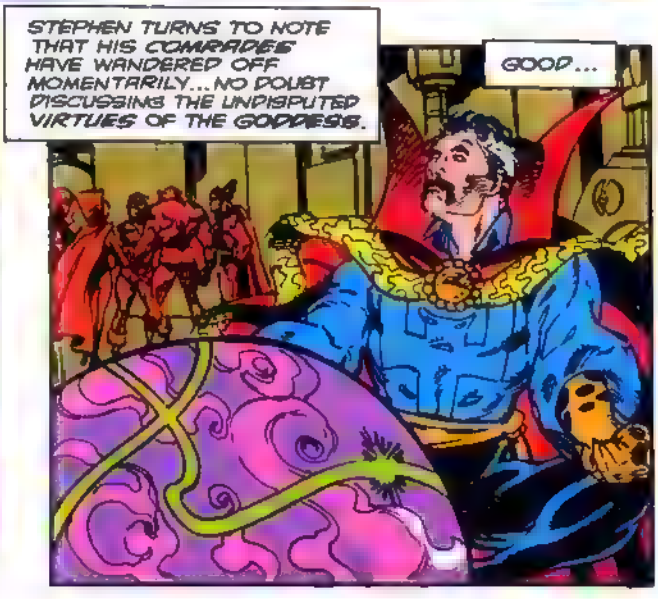

THE SAME EYE-WITNESS WHO DESCRIBED THE MURDERER CLAIMS TO HAVE ACTUALLY TAPED THE KILLER, AS WELL.
BUT THIS IS WHAT THE TAPE ACTUALLY SHOWED:


THE VICTIM--STILL ALIVE--BEING TOSSED ABOUT HIS APARTMENT AS IF BY SOME INCREDIBLY POWERFUL INVISIBLE ASSAILANT.
YYAAA
WE CAN'T SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER OR NOT THIS MIGHT BE FAKED FOOTAGE.

HERE HE IS, BEING HURLED AGAINST THE WALL--AND LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS.
WHOMM
NNNGNN...
AT THIS POINT, OUR EYEWITNESS FLED, WITH HIS CAMERA.

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED IN ANSWER TO THE MAN'S SCREAMS, THEY FOUND HIM DEAD.
--HIS BODY DRAINED OF NEARLY ALL BLOOD.


OF COURSE, EVERY SCHOOLCHILD THESE DAYS KNOWS THAT VAMPIRES CAN'T BE PHOTOGRAPHED, BUT ALL THE SAME, POLICE ARE KEEPING AN OPEN MIND ABOUT--
WE MUST DO SOMETHING!
YES--BUT WHAT?


STEPHEN TURNS TO NOTE THAT HIS COMRADES HAVE WANDERED OFF MOMENTARILY...NO DOUBT DISCUSSING THE UNDISPUTED VIRTUES OF THE GODDESS.
GOOD...

FOR THAT GIVES HIM A CHANCE TO SEND HIS ASTRAL BODY STREAKING OUTWARD--
--UPWARD--
--AND BACK ACROSS THE COSMIC VOID--
--TOWARD THE ISLAND CALLED EARTH.
WHAT ELSE CAN HE DO--ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE IS A LULL ON PARADISE OMEGA.
HIS PHYSICAL BODY COULD NOT--WOULD NOT WANT TO RETURN TO EARTH JUST NOW.
ITS PLACE--DR. STRANGE'S PLACE--IS WITH THE REST OF THE CONVERTED.
STILL, HE MUST FIND OUT, IF HE CAN DO SO IN SHORT ORDER, WHETHER THE MAN IN THAT EERIE COSTUME IS INDEED VICTOR STRANGE--
--HIS DEAD AND MOST VAMPIRICAL BROTHER!

IT HAS NOT REALLY BEEN ALL THAT LONG SINCE HE LEFT HIS GREENWICH VILLAGE MANSION...

YET, SINCE THAT TIME, HE HAS WITNESSED THE CREATION OF A WORLD--

HE HAS FOUGHT AN ETERNITY-SPAWNED INCARNATION OF THE THE ANCIENT ONE--

--EVEN SEEN HIS DREAM-DOPPEL-GANGER BECOME A DISCIPLE OF DORMAMMU, AND MURDER HIS AGED MENTOR IN COLD BLOOD.

SMALL WONDER THAT IT SEEMS BOTH HOME TO HIM--YET SOMEHOW ODDLY ALIEN.

BUT WHERE IS WONG?

OR IMEI?

WHY COULDN'T EVEN SARA WOLFE BE HERE, SEEKING HIS ADVICE CONCERNING THE METAPHYSICAL INSTITUTE?

EMPTY!

MEANWHILE, SOME BLOCKS AWAY...

COME, IMEI. WE CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER HOPING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAS--

--OF STEPHEN.

YOU FIND IT HARD TO CALL HIM ANYTHING BUT "MASTER," DON'T YOU, MY LOVE--EVEN WHEN HE WANTS YOU TO.

THE HABITS OF A LIFETIME--INGRAINED IN ME BY MY FATHER, HAMIR--ARE HARD TO BREAK.

WELL, LET US SEE IF MS. BLESSING IS HOME.

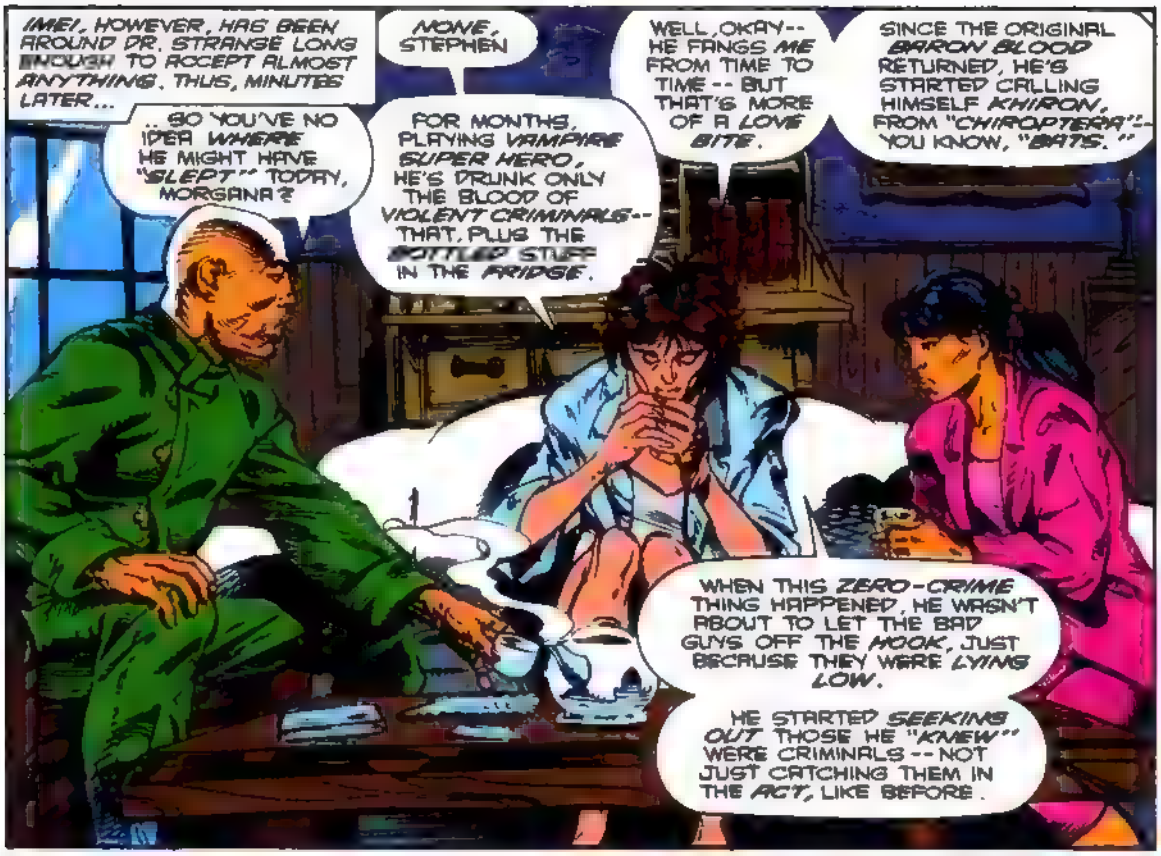
IF ANYONE KNOWS WHETHER VICTOR STRANGE IS BEHIND THOSE KILLINGS, SHE WILL.

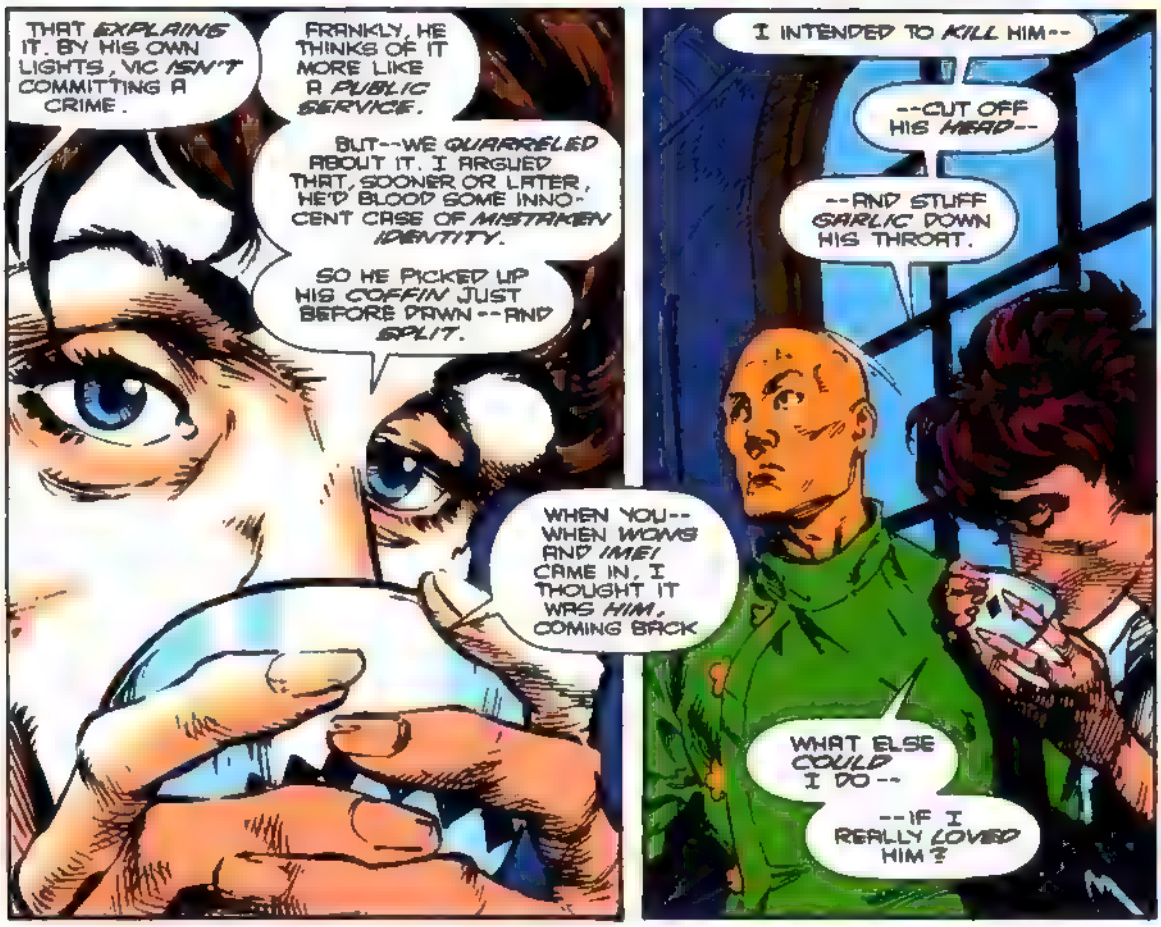
VICKERY
HABEL
FLINSCH
BERG
MORTON
BLESSING

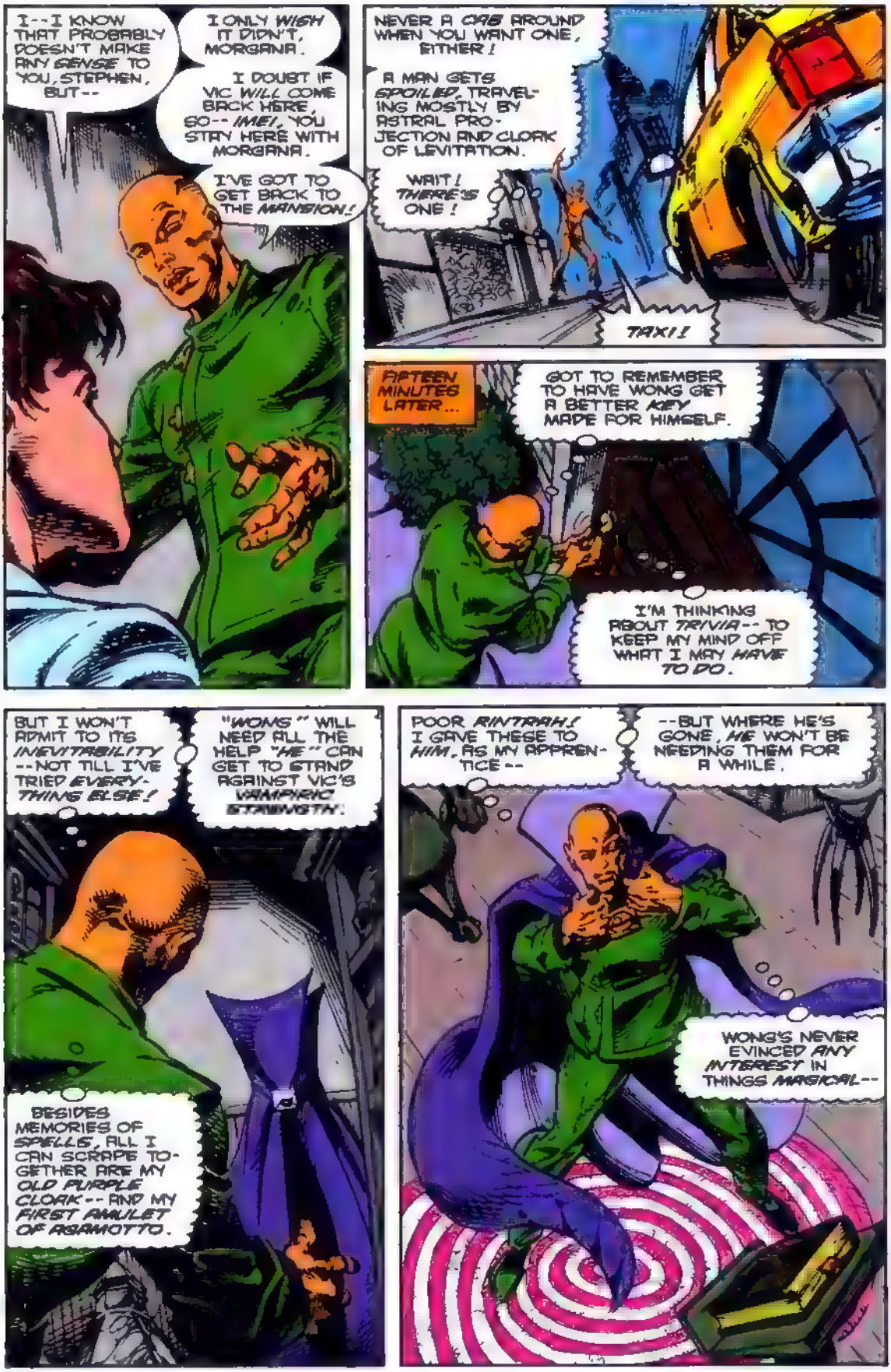
WHY ISN'T ANYBODY EVER HOME WHEN YOU REALLY NEED THEM?

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT OUTSIDE, IM!!
IF VICTOR IS ON A BLOOD RAMPAGE--!!
MY PLACE IS WITH YOU, WONG-- AND THAT'S THAT!
BESIDES, IT'S NEARLY SUNSET--
AND, IN THIS TOWN, THAT MEANS PLENTY OF OTHER PERILS BESIDES VAMPIRES!
M. BLESSING
ALL RIGHT-- BUT KEEP BEHIND ME, WHILE I--
EH? THE DOOR IS AJAR?
ONLY ONE THING LEFT I CAN DO--
--HEAD FOR MORGANA BLESSING'S LOFT, IN SOHO!
I'D HOPED TO GO THERE IN PHYSICAL FORM-- CONTROLLING WONG'S BODY--
BUT I'LL HAVE TO GO IT ALONE-- AND INTANGIBLE!
EAST
I HATE TO ENTER WITHOUT KNOCKING--BUT IF YOUNG VICTOR IS HERE--!
SHADES ALL DRAWN-- SO DARK IN HERE! I CAN BARELY--
EEEEEEE

I'LL HAVE THAT STAKE!
NNOOOO
WHAT--?
IT'S-- MORGANA!
PLEASE, MS. BLESSING-- GIVE ME--
NO-- I--I MUST--
GRAB THE STAKE, WONG! SUDDENLY, SHE'S GONE WEAK AS A KITTEN!
I CAN WAIT NO LONGER! I MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL SHELL-- AT ONCE!
I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT I HAVE POWER ENOUGH LEFT TO OVERRIPE WONG'S NATURAL RESISTANCE TO HAVING HIS BODY COMMANDEERED...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WONG? WHY AREN'T YOU HELPING ME WITH HER?
IMEI-- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO BELIEVE THIS...!


IMEI, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN AROUND DR. STRANGE LONG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT ALMOST ANYTHING. THUS, MINUTES LATER...
MONE, STEPHEN
.. SO YOU'VE NO IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE "SLEPT" TODAY, MORGANA?
FOR MONTHS, PLAYING VAMPIRE SUPER HERO, HE'S DRUNK ONLY THE BLOOD OF VIOLENT CRIMINALS-- THAT, PLUS THE BOTTLED STUFF IN THE FRIDGE.
WELL, OKAY-- HE FANGS ME FROM TIME TO TIME -- BUT THAT'S MORE OF A LOVE BITE.
SINCE THE ORIGINAL BARON BLOOD RETURNED, HE'S STARTED CALLING HIMSELF KHIRON, FROM "CHIROPTERA"-- YOU KNOW, "BATS."
WHEN THIS ZERO-CRIME THING HAPPENED, HE WASN'T ABOUT TO LET THE BAD GUYS OFF THE HOOK, JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE LYING LOW.
HE STARTED SEEKING OUT THOSE HE "KNEW" WERE CRIMINALS -- NOT JUST CATCHING THEM IN THE ACT, LIKE BEFORE.


THAT EXPLAINS IT. BY HIS OWN LIGHTS, VIC ISN'T COMMITTING A CRIME.
FRANKLY, HE THINKS OF IT MORE LIKE A PUBLIC SERVICE.
BUT--WE QUARRELED ABOUT IT. I ARGUED THAT, SOONER OR LATER, HE'D BLOOD SOME INNOCENT CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.
SO HE PICKED UP HIS COFFIN JUST BEFORE DAWN--AND SPLIT.
WHEN YOU-- WHEN WONG AND IMEI CAME IN, I THOUGHT IT WAS HIM, COMING BACK
I INTENDED TO KILL HIM--
--CUT OFF HIS HEAD--
--AND STUFF GARLIC DOWN HIS THROAT.
WHAT ELSE COULD I DO--
--IF I REALLY LOVED HIM?


I--I KNOW THAT PROBABLY DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU, STEPHEN, BUT--
I ONLY WISH IT DIDN'T, MORGANA.
I DOUBT IF VIC WILL COME BACK HERE, SO-- IMEI, YOU STAY HERE WITH MORGANA.
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE MANSION!
NEVER A CAB AROUND WHEN YOU WANT ONE, EITHER!
A MAN GETS SPOILED, TRAVELING MOSTLY BY ASTRAL PROJECTION AND CLOAK OF LEVITATION.
WAIT! THERE'S ONE!
TAXI!
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
GOT TO REMEMBER TO HAVE WONG GET A BETTER KEY MADE FOR HIMSELF.
I'M THINKING ABOUT TRIVIA-- TO KEEP MY MIND OFF WHAT I MAY HAVE TO DO.
BUT I WON'T ADMIT TO ITS INEVITABILITY --NOT TILL I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE!
"WONG" WILL NEED ALL THE HELP "ME" CAN GET TO STAND AGAINST VIC'S VAMPYRIC STAMYGTH!
BESIDES MEMORIES OF SPELLS, ALL I CAN SCRAPE TOGETHER ARE MY OLD PURPLE CLOAK-- AND MY FIRST AMULET OF ASAMOTTO.
POOR RINTRAH! I GAVE THESE TO HIM, AS MY APPRENTICE--
--BUT WHERE HE'S GONE, HE WON'T BE NEEDING THEM FOR A WHILE.
WONG'S NEVER EVINCED ANY INTEREST IN THINGS MAGICAL--

--BUT THEY'VE NOW GOT AN INTEREST IN HIM!
IT'S GETTING DARK! AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WASTE ANY ETHEREAL ENERGY MAKING MYSELF INVISIBLE!
THERE'S THE WAREHOUSE WHERE I STORED VIC'S BODY FOR YEARS--
--UNTIL I UNKNOWINGLY RECITED A SPELL THAT BROUGHT HIM BACK AS A VAMPIRE.
THEY WERE TEARING THE PLACE DOWN MONTHS AGO, TO MAKE ROOM FOR A PARKING LOT--
BUT THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY RAN OUT OF MONEY, AND CALLED A HALT.
SO A FEW WALLS WERE LEFT STANDING--
--MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR VIC TO HIDE BEHIND BY DAY, IF HE HAD A MIND TO.
IT'S ONLY A GUESS THAT HE MIGHT HAVE COME BACK HERE TO ROOST...
HE COULD BE ALMOST ANYWHERE...
BUT I'VE GOT TO START SOMEPLACE!
LAST TIME I WAS HERE, IT WAS RIGHT IN--
YES! THERE IT IS--
AND-- THAT FORM INSIDE--
IT MUST BE HIM!
VIC--!
15

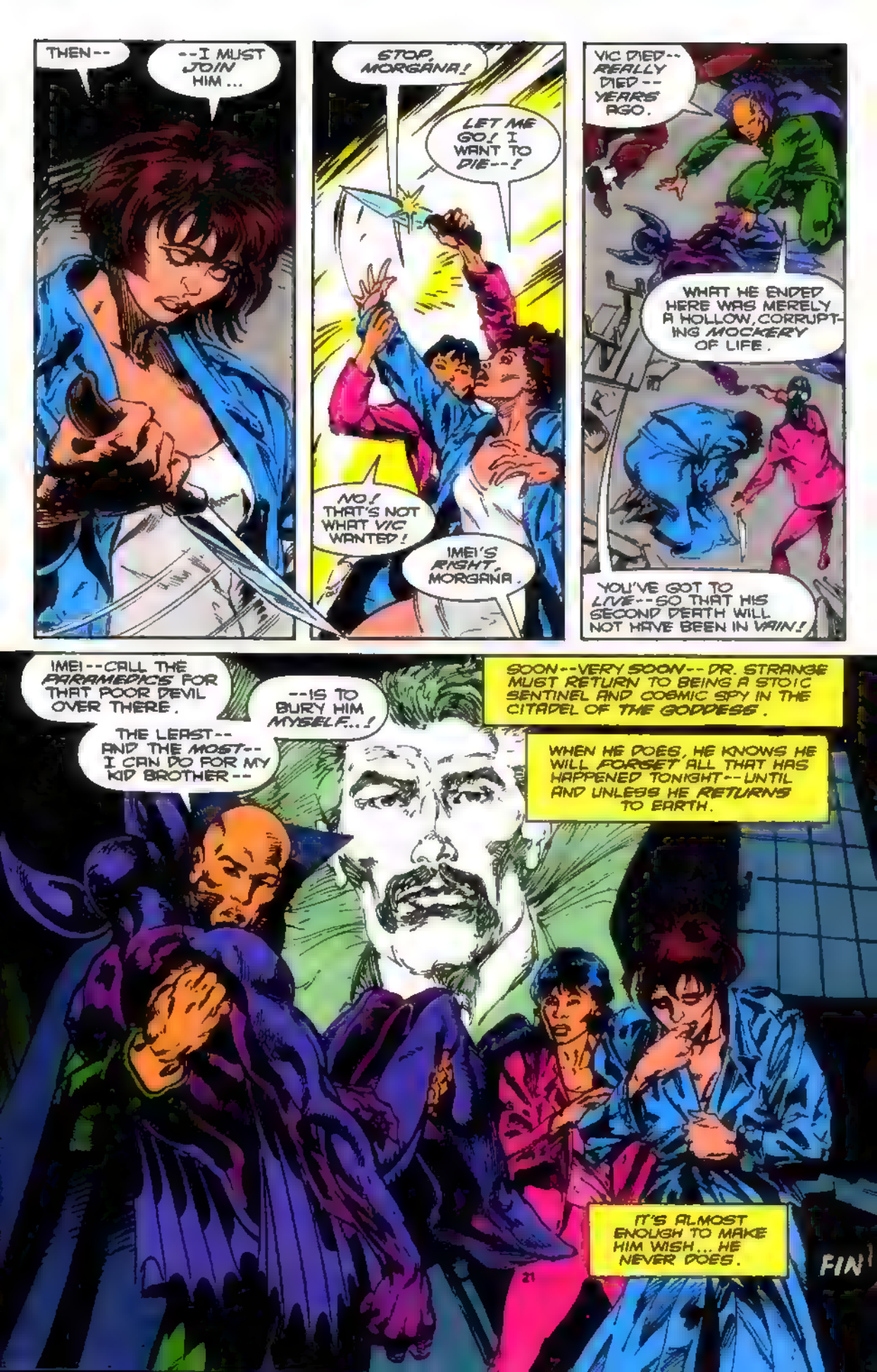
HOLY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH!
A CORPSE--
BUT WHO--?
I DIDN'T CATCH HIS NAME...
...JUST HIM, SELLING CRACK TO AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KID.
VIC!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, WONG?
STEVE OR MORGANA SEND YOU, TO SLAP MY WRIST FOR CLEANING UP THE FILTH IN THIS CITY?
IF THEY DID, I'M WARNING YOU...
...I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.

VIC--I'M STEPHEN. I'VE JUST HAD TO TAKE OVER WONG'S BODY FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
BUT AT LEAST IT'S A LIVING BODY--NOT A WALKING STIFF, LIKE ME.
SAVE THE GUILT TRIP MATERIAL FOR ONCE, ALL RIGHT?
I'M HERE TO STOP YOU FROM KILLING ANYBODY ELSE, WHETHER HE'S A JAYWALKER OR A MASS MURDERER.
FOR MONTHS, I'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE TO YOUR USING NEW YORK'S CRIMINAL CLASSES AS YOUR OWN PRIVATE HUNTING PRE-SERVE...
BUT THOSE DAYS ARE OVER.
I CAN SEE THAT MAN'S STILL ALIVE, VIC.
PUT HIM DOWN--NOW!
NO WAY, STEVE! I SAW THIS GUY SHOOT SOMEBODY LAST WEEK.
THAT TIME, I GOT HIS PART-NER--THIS TIME I CAUGHT HIM, HANGIN' AROUND THE VILLAGE.
HIS BLOOD IS MINE!
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, VIC--!
NO PROBLEM.
THWAP

UNNHHH...
I TRIED TO SPARE YOU.
BUT I'M WRITING FINIS TO YOUR MOONLIGHT MARAUDINGS--NO MATTER HOW I HAVE TO DO IT!
I'VE FOUGHT DRACULA TO A STANDSTILL--AND WIPED OUT EARTH'S ENTIRE UNDEAD POPULATION ONCE, WITH THE MONTESI FORMULA.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN'T HANDLE ONE PUNK VAMPIRE WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR?
YOU'RE USING MAGIC AGAINST ME--
--TO PROTECT THIS SCUM?!
IT'S YOUR FREAKIN' SPELLS THAT MADE ME WHAT I AM, BIG BROTHER.
USE 'EM ON ME AGAIN--
--AND I'LL SHOVE THAT RIDICULOUS SQUARE AMULET DOWN YOUR SILVER-TONGUED THROAT!

HE'S RIGHT! FIRST I WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH, THAT DAY HE SHOWED UP ON MY DOORSTEP--
--THEN I BROUGHT HIM BACK, CONDEMNED TO AN UNDEAD ETERNITY!
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DESTROY HIM--
--AND THE WAY HE'S HURLING HIMSELF AT MY SHIELD--
--IF I DON'T, IN A MOMENT, HE'LL BE--
THROUGH!
VIC--GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! YOU'RE NOT FULLY EVIL--NOT YET--
--BUT YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF GOING OVER THE EDGE!
YOU'VE LET YOUR NEED FOR BLOOD BLIND YOU TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
YOU'RE WRONG--WRONG! I'M A HERO!
YOU MADE ME A VAMPIRE--BUT I MADE MYSELF A HERO!
TOO CLOSE FOR ANY MORE MAGIC!
I'VE GOT TO BANK EVERYTHING ON ONE BLOW!
THOK
NO GOOD, STEVE! I'M A DOZEN TIMES STRONGER THAN YOU--
NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE, OR DO I HAVE TO--?
YOU--UNNH!--KNOW THE ANSWER--TO THAT--!
S-SOCORRO...

SHUT UP, MURDERER!
POR F-FAVOR...N-NO COMPRENDO...
BUT--THE MAN I SAW LAST WEEK--SPOKE GOOD ENGLISH! HE--
OH MY GOD...
IT'S NOT HIM! HE--LOOKS A LOT LIKE HIM--BUT NOW I SEE--HE'S NOT THE ONE!
CAN'T YOU TELL, VIC--HE DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH!
I NEARLY KILLED AN INNOCENT MAN!
VIC! I CAME TO YOU, BUT WHAT I REALLY NEED IS HELP!
MORGANA! NO! STAY BACK!
YOU WERE RIGHT, BIG BROTHER--ABOUT EVERYTHING BUT ONE!
I'M ALREADY CORRUPTED--TOO EVIL TO LIVE--
MR. BLESSING, WAIT!
--OR EVEN TO BE--
--UNDEADDDD*
VIC--!
HE--CAN'T HEAR YOU, MORGANA.
VIC STRANGE--IS FINALLY AT PEACE.

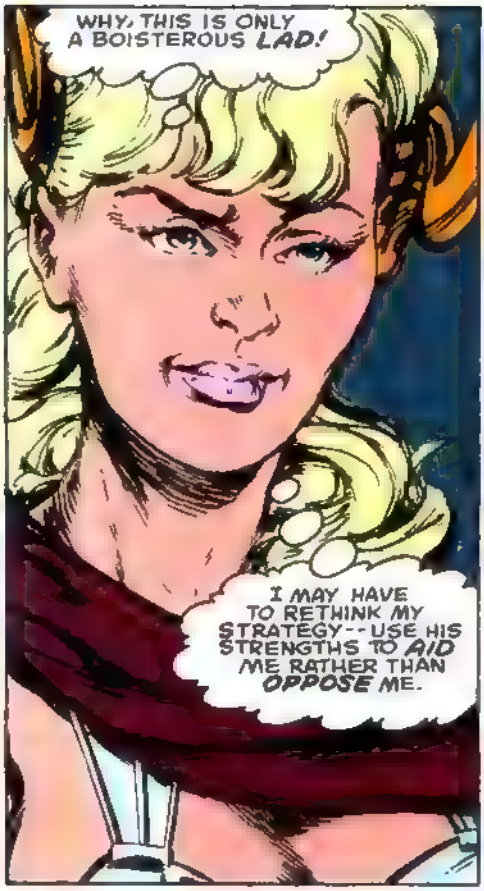

THEN--
--I MUST JOIN HIM...
STOP, MORGANA!
LET ME GO! I WANT TO DIE--!
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT VIC WANTED!
IMEI'S RIGHT, MORGANA.
VIC DIED-- REALLY DIED-- YEARS AGO.
WHAT HE ENDED HERE WAS MERELY A HOLLOW, CORRUPTING MOCKERY OF LIFE.
YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE--SO THAT HIS SECOND DEATH WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!
IMEI--CALL THE PARAMEDICS FOR THAT POOR DEVIL OVER THERE.
--IS TO BURY HIM MYSELF...!
THE LEAST-- AND THE MOST-- I CAN DO FOR MY KID BROTHER--
SOON--VERY SOON-- DR. STRANGE MUST RETURN TO BEING A STOIC SENTINEL AND COSMIC SPY IN THE CITADEL OF THE GODDESS.
WHEN HE DOES, HE KNOWS HE WILL FORGET ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TONIGHT-- UNTIL AND UNLESS HE RETURNS TO EARTH.
IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM WISH... HE NEVER DOES.
FIN!

"STAND-OFF"
CENTAURION! WHAT DELAYS YOU?
SENT TO CAPTURE KYLLIAN AS A PRIZE FOR ZEUS--
--THE CENTAURION SORELY UNDER-ESTIMATED THE YOUNG MYSTIC!
GEOF DARROW
STORY + ART
DIANA ALBERS
LETTERS
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORS
MIKE ROCKWITZ
BULLWHIP
TOM DEFALCO
TOREADOR
Y-YOU HAVE BEEN INJURED!
YOU MUST REVIVE SO I CAN TRANSPORT YOU TO SAFETY!
THIS MUST BE THAT "BELLONA" THE CENTAURION SPOKE OF DURING THE FIGHT!

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN VICTORIOUS THIS TIME--
--IT ONLY MEANS YOUR ULTIMATE DEFEAT WILL BE ALL THE MORE SATISFYING!
DON'T FEEL LIKE GETTING YOUR OWN HANDS DIRTY, EH, BELLONA?
THEN JUST TAKE YOUR PET AND BEAT IT!
I--I APOLOGIZE FOR FAILING YOU, MISTRESS!
ALLOW ME A CHANCE TO REDEEM MY HONOR!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED A DEMI-GOD TO DEFEAT THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THREE ANCIENT GODS.

THE SALTS OF SKARTEKIS WILL OPEN THE PATH HOME!
FFASHHH!
HOLD UP, LADY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA OF SICCING YOUR ATTACK DOG ON ME? I WANT ANSWERS NOW!
THWAK!
UNHAND ME, MORTAL!
SHE AIN'T NO OLD DANCING PARTNER OF DOC! SHE'S AFTER THE GODS THAT LIVE INSIDE ME!
"MORTAL"?
NO HUMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO TOUCH AN OLYMPIAN!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDA FEUD YOU'VE BEEN HAVING WITH THE CELTS--
--BUT IF YOU WANT TO START UP WITH ME, I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YA TRIPLE-TIME!


WHY, THIS IS ONLY A BOISTEROUS LAD!
I MAY HAVE TO RETHINK MY STRATEGY--USE HIS STRENGTHS TO AID ME RATHER THAN OPPOSE ME.

VERY WELL. WE NOW TAKE OUR LEAVE. BUT DO NOT REST OVERMUCH, BOY. THIS IS NOT YET FINISHED!

SO NOW I'VE INHERITED A NATURAL ENEMY TO GO WITH MY BENEFACTORS. MARVELOUS.

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY AND FORGET MY OLD PROBLEMS.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE MY HANDS FULL WITH NEW ONES!
BACK ON MOUNT OLYMPUS.
SYBILLA! DID YOU FORESEE THE PATHETIC OUTCOME OF MY PLAN?
I HAVE BEEN PREPARING HERBS TO PORTEND YOUR NEXT MANEUVER.
NATURALLY! DO YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE PRESENTED YOU WITH A CHALLENGE WORTHY ONLY OF A CHILD?
SHOW ME NO MORE OF YOUR VISIONS, OLD WOMAN!
BUT THEY MANIFEST NOW...
I WILL ACT ALONE!
THEN PROCEED WITH CARE, BELLONA! YOUR DESTINY MAY STRAY FROM THE PATH YOU IMAGINE!
THE END

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TO COMBAT THOSE THREATS AGAINST WHICH NO HERO COULD STAND ALONE, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FORGED A COVENANT TO UNITE IN BATTLE TO PROTECT ALL MANKIND. NOW, FROM A SECOND BASE OF OPERATIONS, A NEW CHAPTER IN THEIR LEGEND IS BEING WRITTEN.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: AVENGERS WEST COAST™

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ONE SECOND AFTER LAST ISSUE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, MOCKINGBIRD! THESE EIGHT BOZOS MUST BE THE POWER PLATOON THAT QUASAR TOLD US HE RAN INTO!
THEY'RE DUDED UP ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE THAT ALIEN WHO CALLED HIMSELF QUANTUM--
ONLY--WHERE'S HE?
DON'T ASK ME, LOVER--
FIGHT THE POWER!

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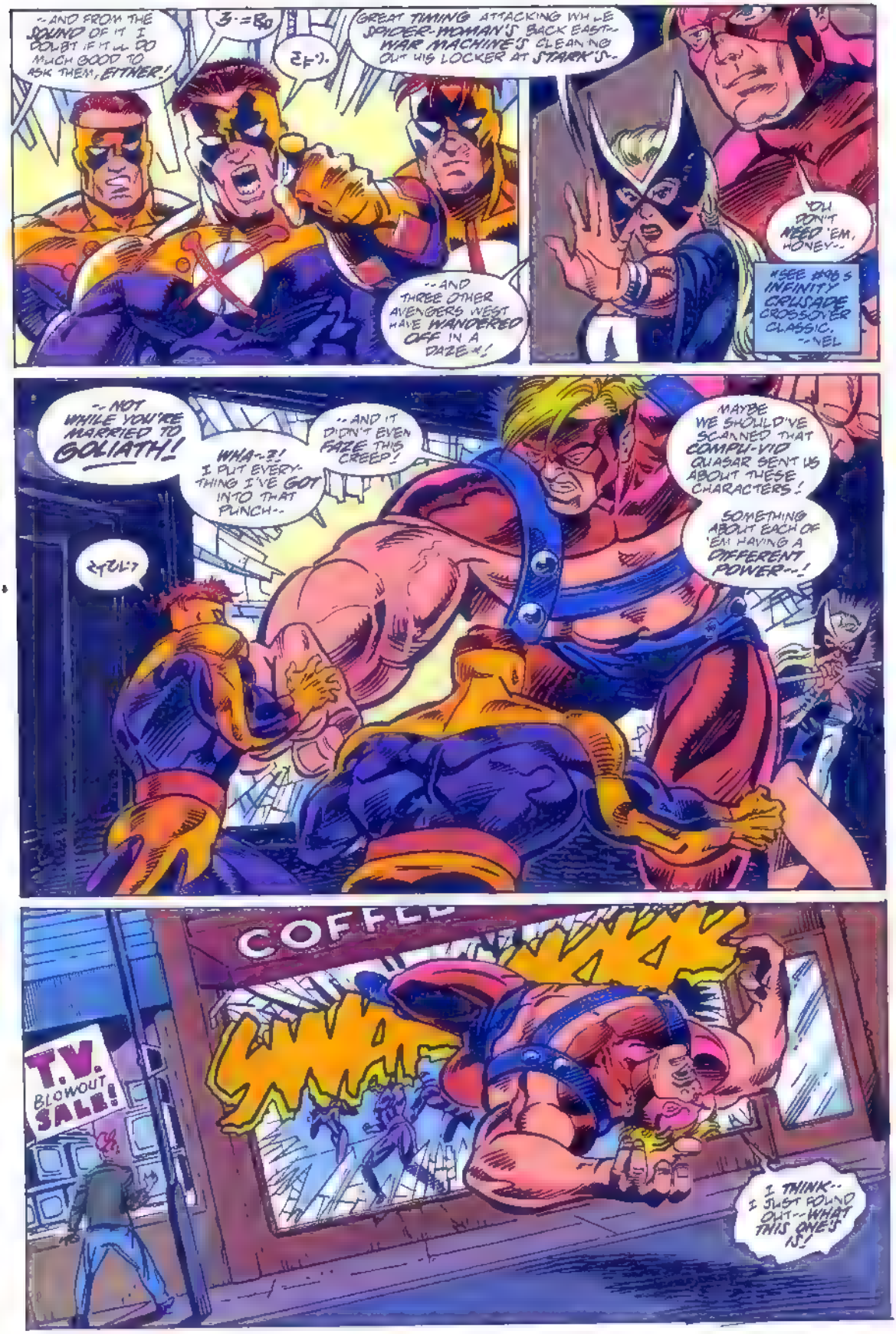
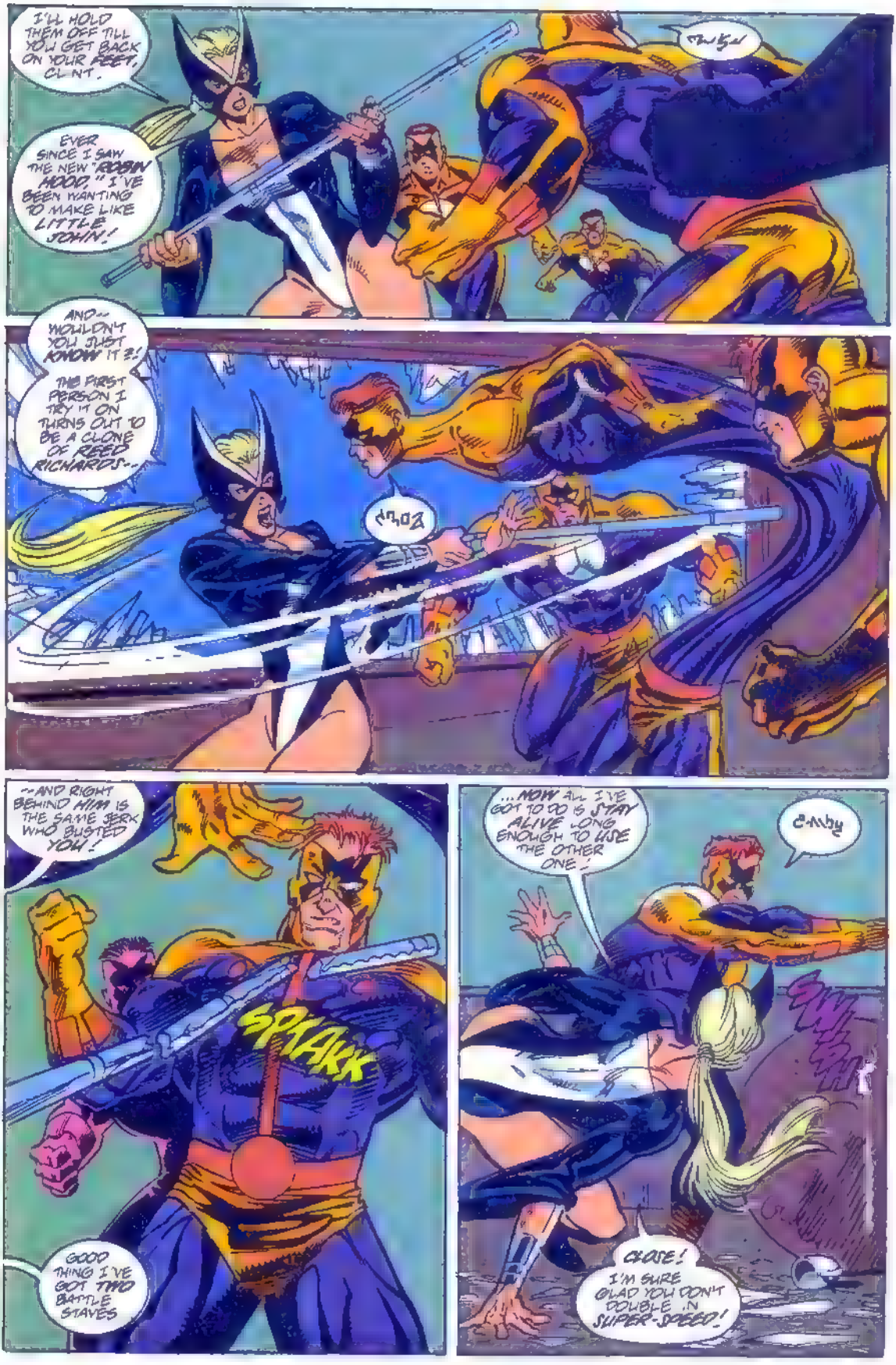
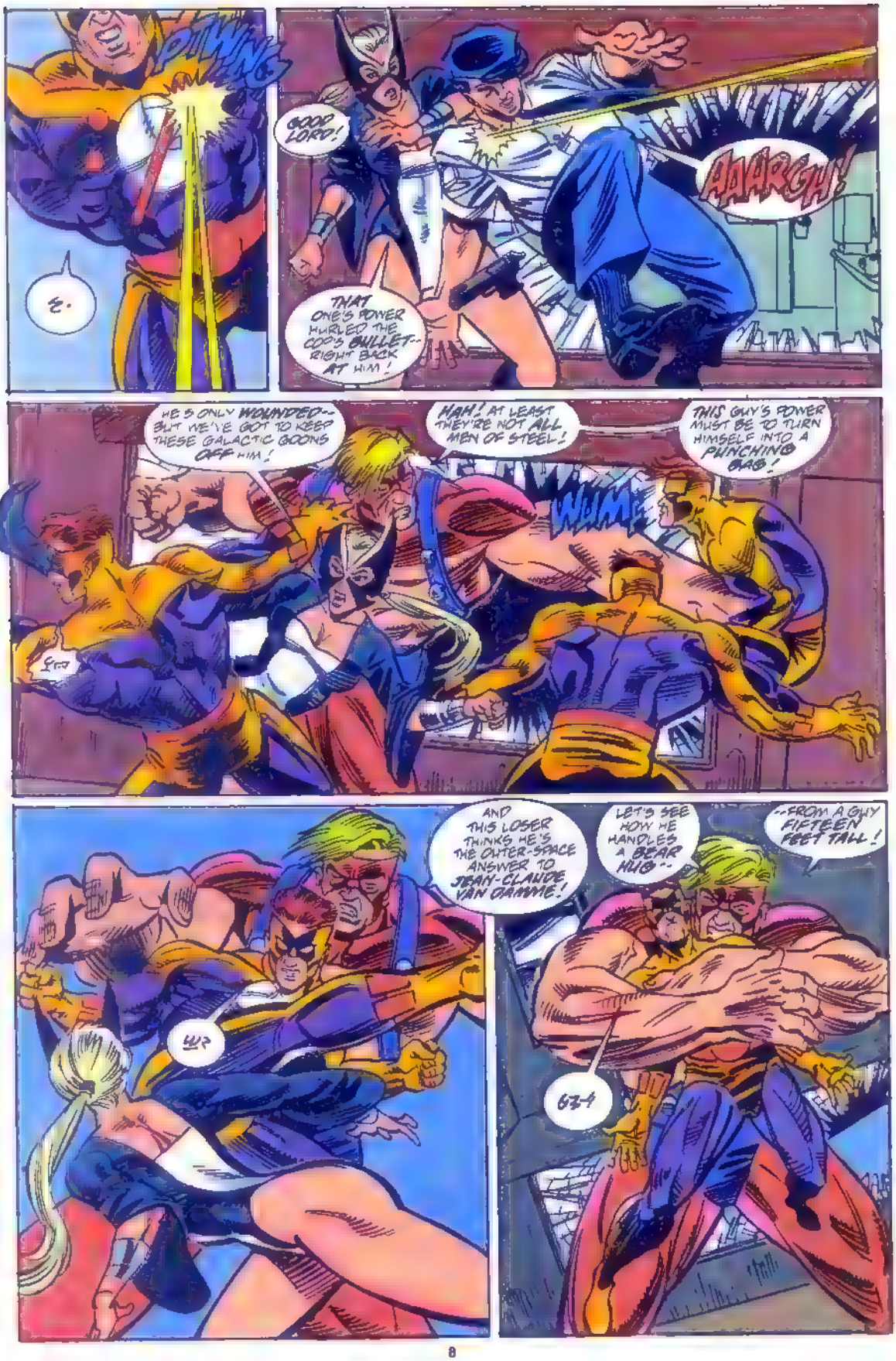

--AND FROM THE SOUND OF IT I DOUBT IF IT'LL DO MUCH GOOD TO ASK THEM, EITHER!
GREAT TIMING ATTACKING WHILE SPIDER-WOMAN'S BACK EAST-- WAR MACHINE'S CLEANING OUT HIS LOCKER AT STARK'S--
--AND THREE OTHER AVENGERS WEST HAVE WANDERED OFF IN A DAZE--!
YOU DON'T NEED 'EM, HONEY--
*SEE #98'S INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER CLASSIC. --NEL
--NOT WHILE YOU'RE MARRIED TO GOLIATH!
WHA--?! I PUT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT INTO THAT PUNCH--
--AND IT DIDN'T EVEN FAZE THIS CREEP!
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE SCANNED THAT COMPU-VID QUASAR SENT US ABOUT THESE CHARACTERS!
SOMETHING ABOUT EACH OF 'EM HAVING A DIFFERENT POWER--!
T.V. BLOWOUT SALE!
I THINK-- I JUST FOUND OUT--WHAT THIS ONE'S IS!

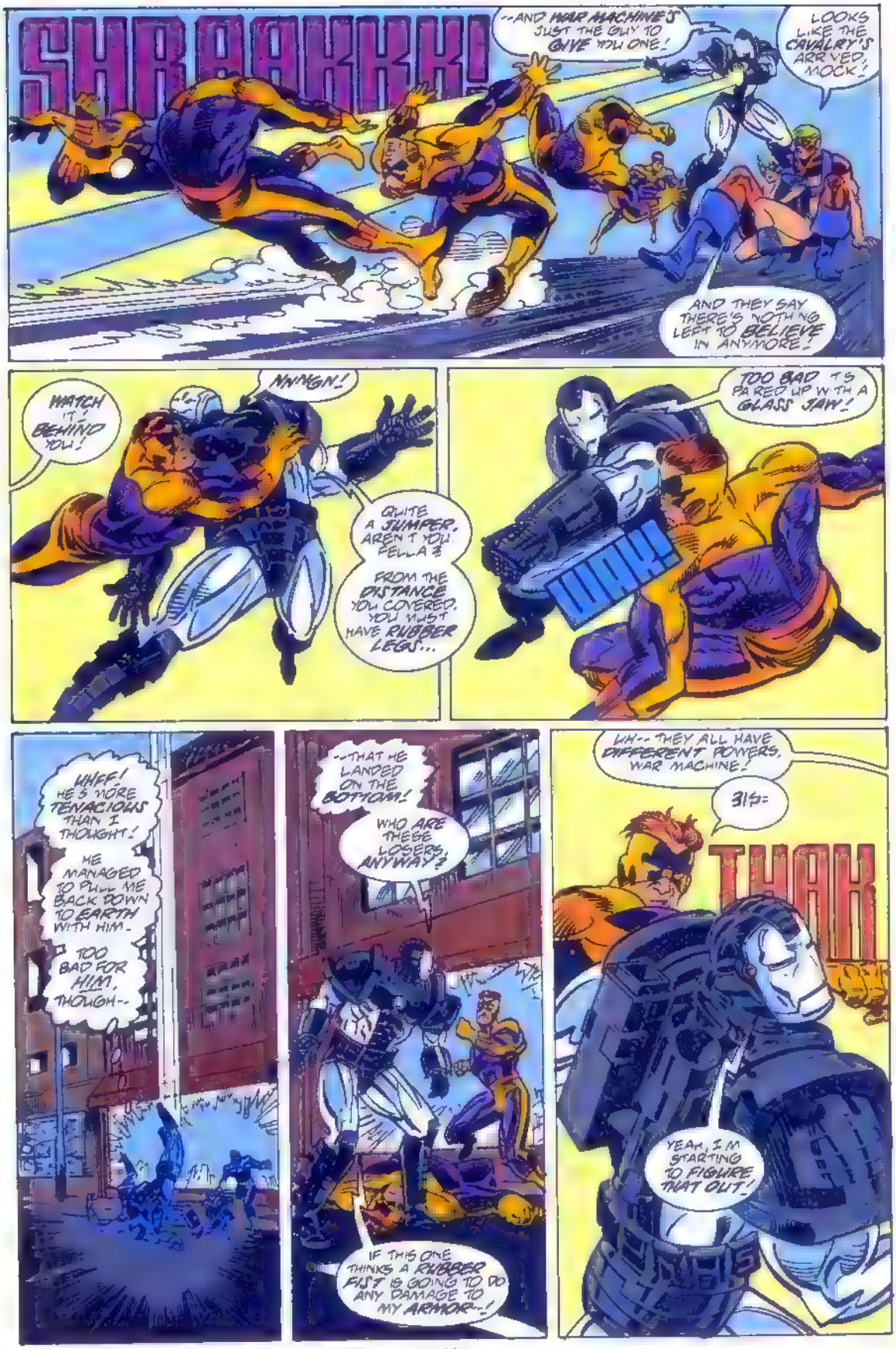

I'LL HOLD THEM OFF TILL YOU GET BACK ON YOUR FEET, CLINT.
EVER SINCE I SAW THE NEW "ROBIN HOOD," I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MAKE LIKE LITTLE JOHN!
AND--WOULDN'T YOU JUST KNOW IT?! THE FIRST PERSON I TRY IT ON TURNS OUT TO BE A CLONE OF REED RICHARDS--
--AND RIGHT BEHIND HIM IS THE SAME JERK WHO BUSTED YOU!
SPTAKK
GOOD THING I'VE GOT TWO BATTLE STAVES
...NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO USE THE OTHER ONE!
CHOKE! I'M SURE GLAD YOU DON'T DOUBLE IN SUPER-SPEED!

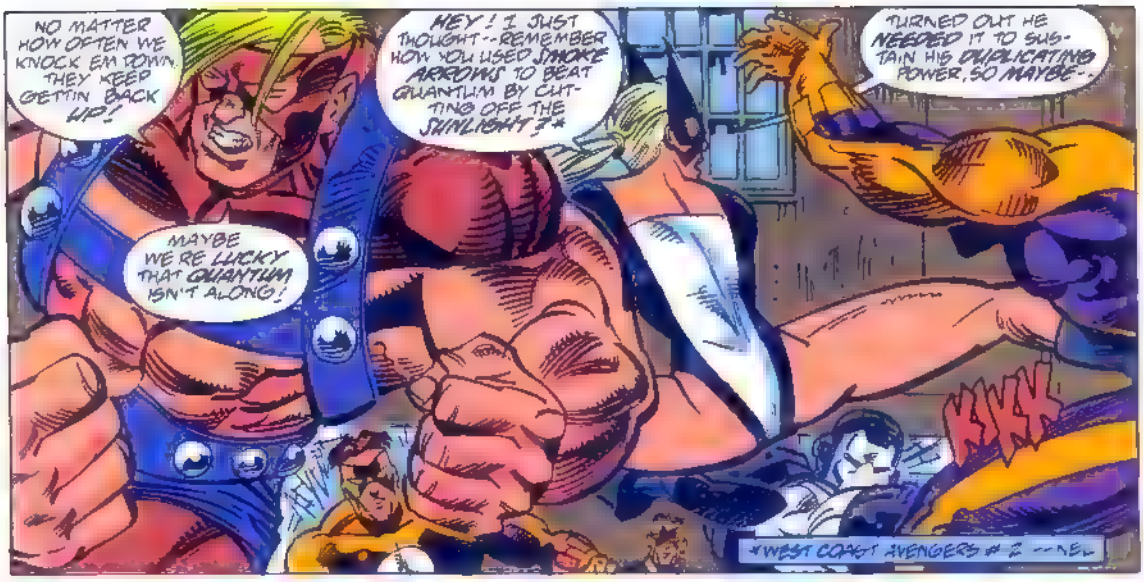
OKAY, LOVER-- I'M THROWIN HOGGING THE LIMELIGHT.
I'VE LED 'EM RIGHT TO YOU-- NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CREAM 'EM!
I LOVE YOU, TOO!
WHAT'S YOUR BACK-UP PLAN?
I'M EXECUTING IT NOW!
CALLING WAR MACHINE-- OR ANY OTHER AVENGER WHO MIGHT BE LISTENING IN--
--GOLIATH AND I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP DOWN AT CALITO'S COFFEE SHOP, IN SAN PEDRO--LIKE NOW!
WE'VE GOT OURSELVES INTO A SCRIMMAGE WITH SOME ALIENS CALLED THE POWER PLATOON--!
WAR MACHINE HERE!
DON'T REALIZE I'D DRIFTED SO FAR NORTH--
--TILL BOBBIE'S VOICE JARRED ME.
GUESS I HAVEN'T CLEARED ALL THE COBWEBS OUT OF MY BRAIN AFTER PICKING UP THE LAST OF MY STUFF AT STARK ENTERPRISES.
ONLY NATURAL. I GAVE YEARS OF MY LIFE TO TONY STARK AND IN THE END, HE TREATED ME LIKE--
--SNAP OUT OF IT, RHODES! WITH SO MANY SUPER HEROES DOING A VANISHING ACT, YOU CAN SAVE THE RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION FOR LATER.
RIGHT NOW--
I'M ON THE OTHER SIDE OF DOWNTOWN, HOCKINGBIRD.
YOU AND THE BIG GUY JUST HANG ON FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES...
...I'M ON MY WAY!

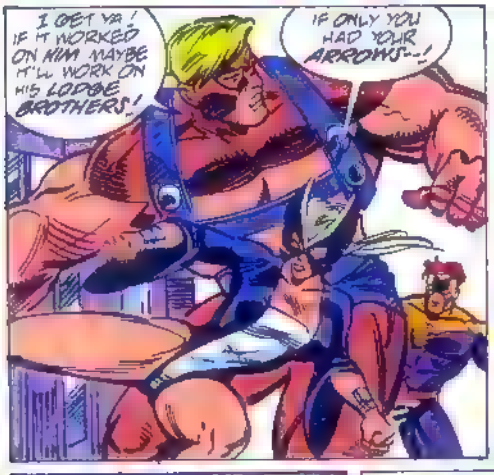
SICK
IF ONLY WE COULD UNDERSTAND THEM, SO WE COULD FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT--!
MAYBE SOME OF THEIR GUYS HAVE GONE MISSING, THE SAME AS OURS, AND THEY THINK WE'VE GOT 'EM!
OR MAYBE--
WHAT'S UP, AVENGERS? ARE THOSE THE CLOWNS WHO TRASHED THE COFFEE SHOP?
WE'RE HANDLING IT.
THEY HAVE SUPER-POWERS, OFFICER--SO IT'S BETTER IF WE DEAL WITH THEM.
I GOT A GLIMPSE OF HOW YOU'RE HANDLING IT AS I RAN UP.
LOOK, I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO--
--SO I'M GOING TO PROTECT AND SERVE YOU--
--WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT!
BEHIND YOU--!
STOP, OR I'LL SHOOT!
NO--DON'T!
ERK.
BLAM
THREATEN ME, WILLYA?
OKAY--I WARNED YOU, CREEP--!

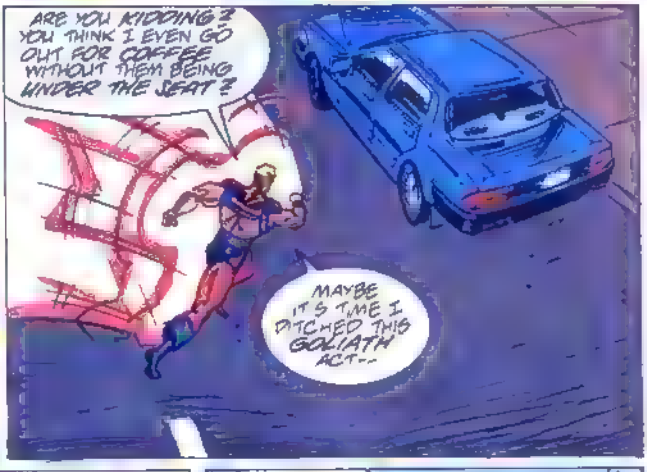

PTWNG
E.
GOOD LORD!
AAARGH!
THAT ONE'S POWER HURLED THE COP'S BULLET-- RIGHT BACK AT HIM!
HE'S ONLY WOUNDED-- BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THESE GALACTIC GOONS OFF HIM!
HAH! AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT ALL MEN OF STEEL!
THIS GUY'S POWER MUST BE TO TURN HIMSELF INTO A PUNCHING BAG!
WUMP
SIGH
AND THIS LOSER THINKS HE'S THE OUTER-SPACE ANSWER TO JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME!
LET'S SEE HOW HE HANDLES A BEAR HUG--
--FROM A GUY FIFTEEN FEET TALL!
UH
GRR

UNNNH!
SHEESH! I'VE GOT ALL THE LUCK!
I PROBABLY GRABBED THE ONLY ONE OF 'EM WHO COULD MATCH ME, INCH FOR INCH!
NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND -- BUT WE'RE KIND-OF OUTNUMBERED HERE ALREADY!
DON'T WORRY ON MY ACCOUNT! I'M DOING FINE!
AGAINST THAT ONE ANYWAY. NOW WHAT'S THIS YO-YO'S FLAVOR-OF-THE MONTH?
OF COURSE! FORCE RAYS FROM HIS EYES! SOMEBODY HAD TO HAVE THAT ONE, RIGHT?
NOT LETHAL STRENGTH -- BUT IT'S KNOCKING ME STRAIGHT INTO CLINT!
MMF!
WELL, AT LEAST I KNOCKED HIM AWAY FROM THAT GIANT WHOEVER!
SIX OF 'EM STILL STANDING GUESS IT'S NOT OUR DAY, MOCK.
LISTEN -- I'LL JUMP THE ONE TO MY LEFT -- THAT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PLOW INTO THE NEAREST ONES BEFORE PAUL BUNYAN GETS ANY CLOSER.
RIGHT. ONE OF 'EM IS STRONGER THAN ME --
-- AND I'LL BE HANGED IF I CAN REMEMBER WHICH ONE -- BUT I'LL --
YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY, AVENGERS --


SHRAAKK!
--AND WAR MACHINE'S JUST THE GUY TO GIVE YOU ONE!
LOOKS LIKE THE CAVALRY'S ARRIVED, MOCK!
AND THEY SAY THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO BELIEVE IN ANYMORE!
WATCH IT, BEHIND YOU!
NNNGN!
QUITE A JUMPER, AREN'T YOU, FELLA?
FROM THE DISTANCE YOU COVERED, YOU MUST HAVE RUBBER LEGS...
TOO BAD IT'S PAIRED UP WITH A GLASS JAW!
WHAK!
WHEW! HE'S MORE TENACIOUS THAN I THOUGHT!
HE MANAGED TO PULL ME BACK DOWN TO EARTH WITH HIM.
TOO BAD FOR HIM, THOUGH--
--THAT HE LANDED ON THE BOTTOM!
WHO ARE THESE LOSERS, ANYWAY?
IF THIS ONE THINKS A RUBBER FIST IS GOING TO DO ANY DAMAGE TO MY ARMOR--!
UH-- THEY ALL HAVE DIFFERENT POWERS, WAR MACHINE!
315=
THAK
YEAH, I'M STARTING TO FIGURE THAT OUT!


NO MATTER HOW OFTEN WE KNOCK EM DOWN, THEY KEEP GETTIN BACK UP!
MAYBE WE'RE LUCKY THAT QUANTUM ISN'T ALONG!
HEY! I JUST THOUGHT--REMEMBER HOW YOU USED SMOKE ARROWS TO BEAT QUANTUM BY CUTTING OFF THE SUNLIGHT?*
TURNED OUT HE NEEDED IT TO SUSTAIN HIS DUPLICATING POWER, SO MAYBE--
KIXX
*WEST COAST AVENGERS # 2 --ED.

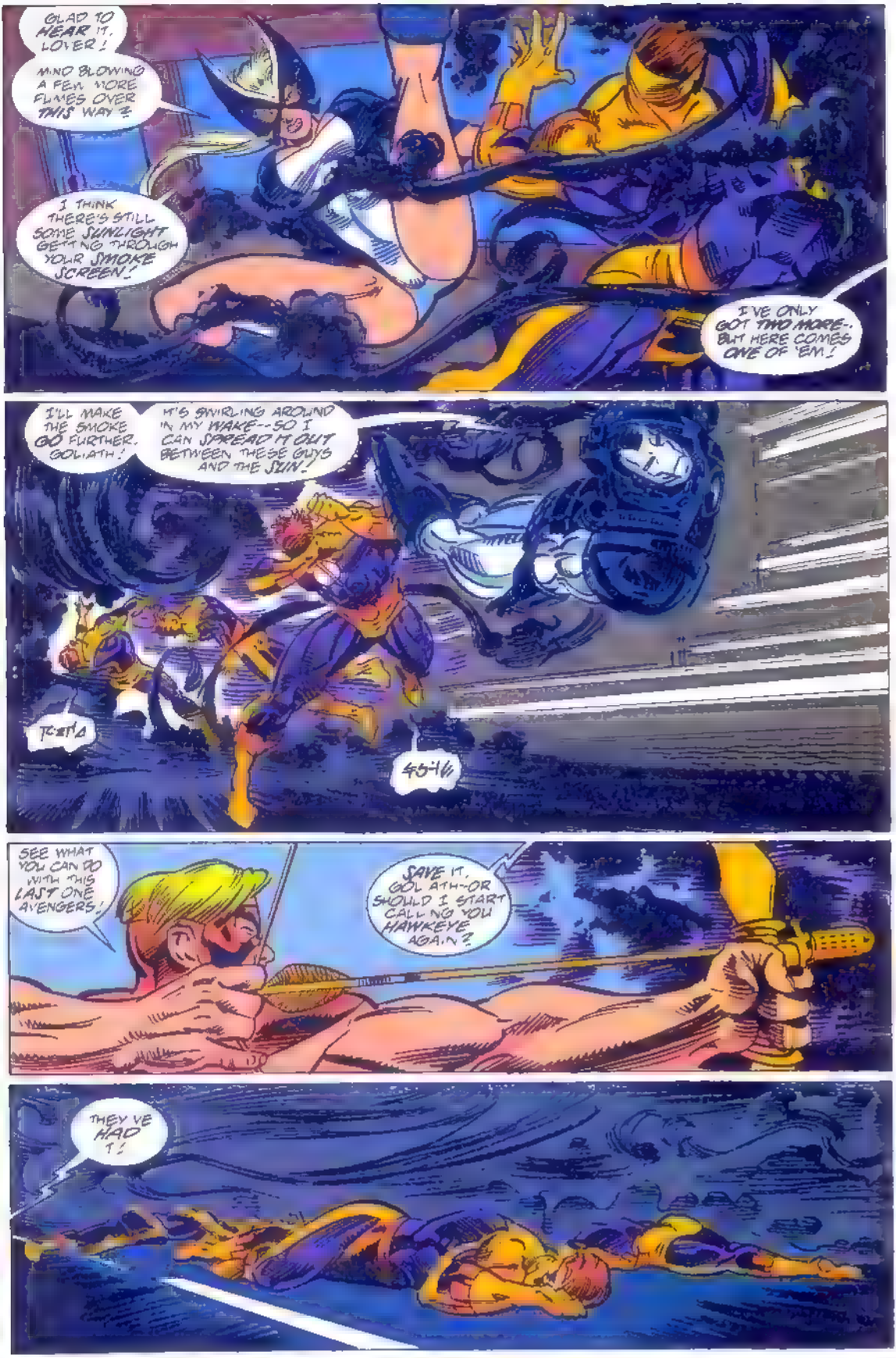

I GET YA! IF IT WORKED ON HIM MAYBE IT'LL WORK ON HIS LOOSE BROTHERS!
IF ONLY YOU HAD YOUR ARROWS--!


ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU THINK I EVEN GO OUT FOR COFFEE WITHOUT THEM BEING UNDER THE SEAT?
MAYBE IT'S TIME I DITCHED THIS GOLIATH ACT--

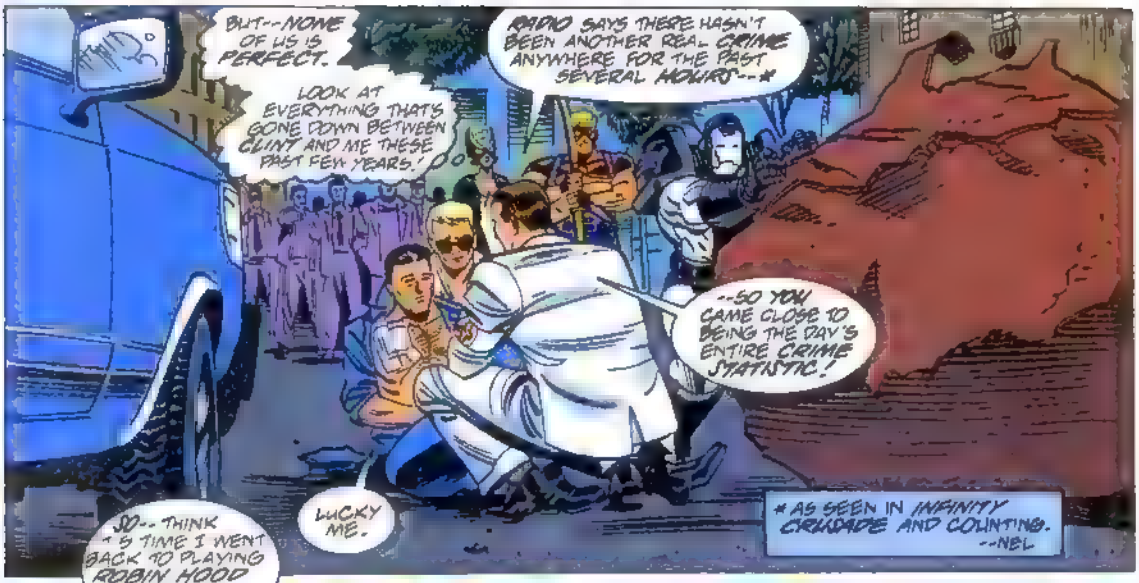
--AND WENT BACK TO BEING YOUR PLAN OLD GARDEN VARIETY--

HAWKEYE
THE MARKSMAN!

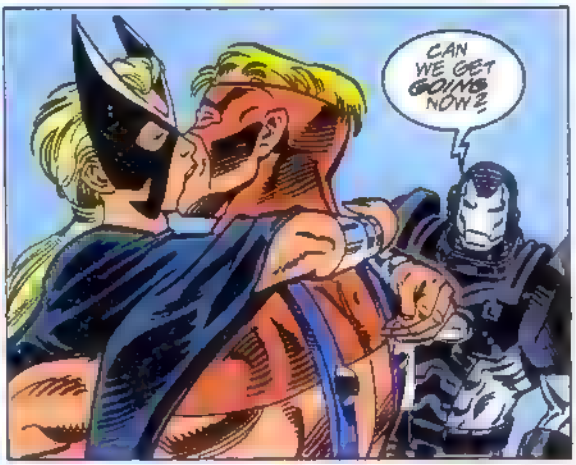
YOU'RE A GENIUS, MOCK!
IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE GOING DOWN!
SSSHHHH
ECH-

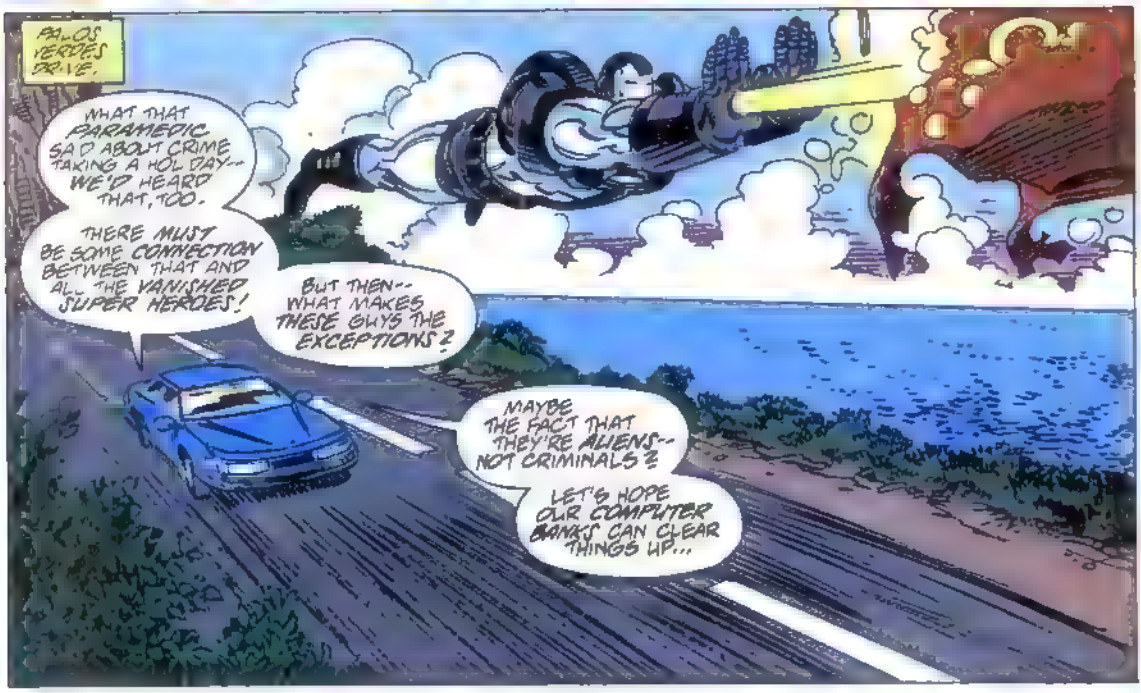

GLAD TO HEAR IT, LOVER!
MIND BLOWING A FEW MORE FLIES OVER THIS WAY?
I THINK THERE'S STILL SOME SUNLIGHT GETTING THROUGH YOUR SMOKE SCREEN!
I'VE ONLY GOT TWO MORE. BUT HERE COMES ONE OF 'EM!
I'LL MAKE THE SMOKE GO FURTHER, GOLIATH!
IT'S SWIRLING AROUND IN MY WAKE--SO I CAN SPREAD IT OUT BETWEEN THESE GUYS AND THE SUN!
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS LAST ONE AVENGERS!
SAVE IT, GOLIATH--OR SHOULD I START CALLING YOU HAWKEYE AGAIN?
THEY'VE HAD IT!

RRRIIPP
BUT, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE--
THAT'S GREAT-- THE WAY YOU'RE FORCING THE EDGES INTO THE CONCRETE!
EVEN IF THEY'VE GOT NORMAL HUMAN-TYPE STRENGTH, THEY'LL NEVER GET OUT ON THEIR OWN.
--THIS METALLIC AWNING SHOULD DO FOR THEM WHAT SUNBLOCK DOES FOR SOME PEOPLE I KNOW.
BUT-- MAYBE THEY'LL SUFFOCATE--!
SKRUNCH
EVER HEAR OF AIR-HOLES, FRIEND?
THUP!
I DOUBT IF THEY'LL GET ENOUGH SUN THROUGH THESE TO DO THEM MUCH GOOD.
WE THINK WE'VE GOT SOME DATA ON 'EM IN OUR COMPUTERS.
NOW--YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT THESE QUANTUM LOOKALIKES?
YOU NOTICED, HUH?
THEN WE'LL TAKE OUR PLAYMATES THERE AND DO SOME RESEARCH.
OKAY BUT IF THEY RECOVER SOMEHOW-- WELL WE'RE PRETTY SHORT-HANDED AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO WANDA, MIQUEL, AND U.S. AGENT.
NO SENSE TAKING ANY CHANCES WE DON'T HAVE TO.
MAYBE IRON MAN COULD HOP OVER AND GIVE US A HAND...
WE DON'T NEED HIM, MOCKINGBIRD.
IN CASE YOU FORGOT-- YOU'VE GOT WAR MACHINE ON YOUR SIDE NOW.
I DIDN'T FORGET.
WHEW. RHODEY'S STILL MAD AT HIS OLD BOSS-SLASH-FRIEND.


BUT--NONE OF US IS PERFECT.
LOOK AT EVERYTHING THAT'S GONE DOWN BETWEEN CLINT AND ME THESE PAST FEW YEARS.
RADIO SAYS THERE HASN'T BEEN ANOTHER REAL CRIME ANYWHERE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL HOURS--*
--SO YOU CAME CLOSE TO BEING THE DAY'S ENTIRE CRIME STATISTIC!
LUCKY ME.
* AS SEEN IN INFINITY CRUSADE AND COUNTING. --NEL

SO-- THINK IT'S TIME I WENT BACK TO PLAYING ROBIN HOOD INSTEAD OF GOLIATH?
I LOVE YOU AT ANY SIZE. YOU KNOW THAT.
YEAH, YEAH I DO.


CAN WE GET GOING NOW?


PALOS VERDES DRIVE.
WHAT THAT PARAMEDIC SAID ABOUT CRIME TAKING A HOLIDAY-- WE'D HEARD THAT, TOO.
THERE MUST BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT AND ALL THE VANISHED SUPER HEROES!
BUT THEN-- WHAT MAKES THESE GUYS THE EXCEPTIONS?
MAYBE THE FACT THAT THEY'RE ALIENS-- NOT CRIMINALS?
LET'S HOPE OUR COMPUTER BANKS CAN CLEAR THINGS UP...

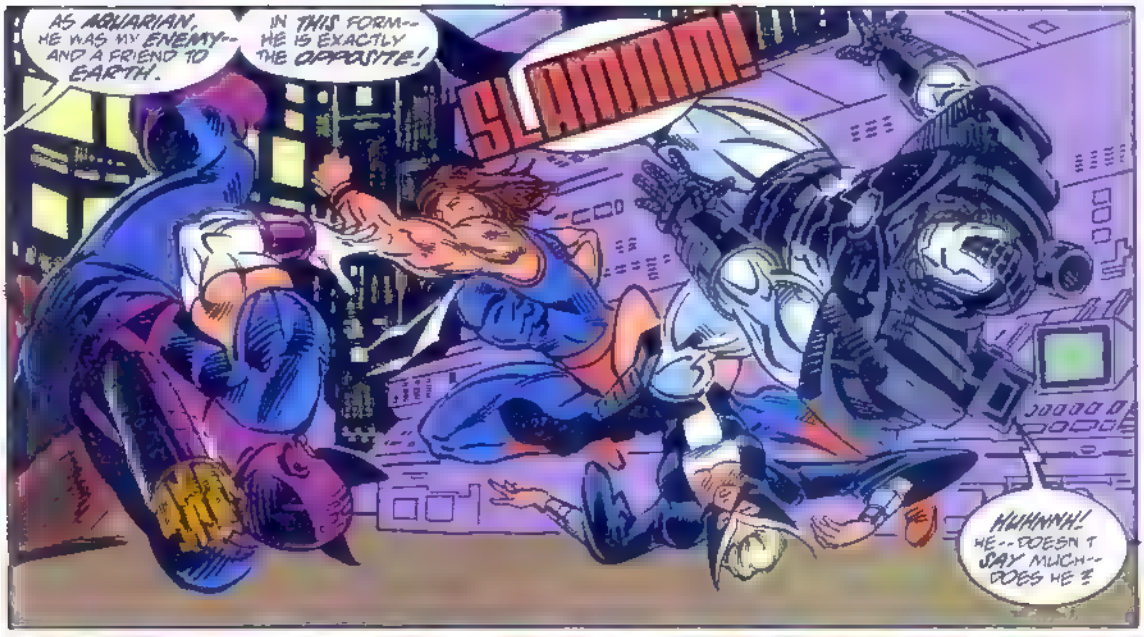
SOON, IN ONE OF THE FEW AREAS OF THE AVENGERS WEST COMPOUND STILL FUNCTIONING...
I'LL BABY-SIT OUR GUESTS WHILE YOU CHECK OUR FILES, BOBBI.
GETTING SOMETHING ALREADY-- UNDER POWER PLATOON."
IT WAS RECORDED BY QUASAR WHEN HE WAS AN AVENGER.
AN AVENGER EAST.
THIS SAME TAPE IS BEING FILED UNDER "QUASAR," "POWER PLATOON" AND "OAKKAMITE."
THE WHO?
OAKKAM IS A DISTANT PLANET--
"--WHOSE FIRST EARTH-VISITOR WAS A YOUTH CALLED WUNDARR.
"HE LEARNED THAT EARTH'S SUN GAVE HIS RACE SUPER-POWERS--
"--WITH WHICH HE FOUGHT THE MAN-THING TO A STANDSTILL.
"NOTING THIS, THE OAKKAMITES SENT NINE SOLDIERS INTO SOLAR ORBIT IN WHAT THEY CALL INCUBATOR CAPSULES.
"THE SUN'S RAYS AFFECTED THE WARRIORS AT DIFFERENT RATES OF SPEED.
"QUANTUM WAS THE LAST TO EMERGE--
"--NOW ENDOWED WITH GREAT STRENGTH, NEAR INVULNERABILITY & SOMETIME FLAME AURA--

--AND THE SEEMING ABILITY TO DUPLICATE HIMSELF.
LATELY, I LEARNED THAT LIMITED TELEPORTING POWERS JUST MAKE HIM LOOK AS IF HE'S DOING SO.
WHEW! HE WAS QUITE A POWERHOUSE, ALL RIGHT.
GOOD THING HIS BUDDIES BROKE OUT HALF-BAKED, OR WE'D NEVER HAVE HELD THEM OFF LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO THINK OF--
SMOKE ARROWS DEFEATED HIM WHEN HE FIRST FOUGHT THE AVENGERS WEST COAST.
WHEN I FACED HIM, MY COSMIC ENERGY ALTERED HIS PROBABILITY FIELD--
"--TRAPPING HIM IN AN INTANGIBLE FORM OF TRIPLICATE, FOR WANT OF A BETTER PHRASE.
"WUNDARR--BY NOW KNOWN AS THE AQUARIAN--WOULD'VE KEPT HIM SOLID IF HE'D JOINED HIS PACIFIST GROUP--
"BUT QUANTUM, A BORN SOLDIER, WASN'T INTERESTED.
"HE TOOK OFF--ALL THREE OF HIM--AND HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE.
"AS FOR HIS FELLOW WARRIORS, RECHRISTENED THE POWER PLATOON, THEY'D ACQUIRED ONLY ONE POWER EACH--
"--AND SOMEHOW ENDED UP ON THE WORLD OF THE POWERFUL ENTITY WE CALL THE STRANGER.
"HYPERION RAN AFOUL OF THEM THERE.
"IN THE END, THEY WERE FREED..
"BUT WHETHER THEY REMAINED THERE OR EMIGRATED INTO SPACE, I'M AFRAID I'VE NO IDEA.
IF THEY EVER SHOW UP ON EARTH, LOOKING FOR THEIR MISSING COMRADE--WE'D ALL BETTER WATCH OUT!

WELL! NOW WE KNOW!
A WHOLE ALIEN "POWER PLATOON"--AND US WITHOUT ENOUGH AVENGERS LEFT TO FIELD A BASKETBALL TEAM!
QUESTION IS--WHAT DO WE DO WITH 'EM, NOW THAT WE'VE GOT 'EM?
WHILE YOU PONDER THAT HAWKEYE--
--I'D BETTER GET SOME MORE SWEETING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CAGE!
AT LEAST, WITHOUT DIRECT SKINLIGHT IN THIS ROOM, THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MUSCLE TO REALLY BREAK FREE.
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--
SO WE CAN GET BACK TO HUNTING FOR WANDA AND THE OTHERS.
IF YOU ARE TRULY AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO EARTHERS--
HMM--?
UH-OH.
Y'KNOW, I WAS AFRAID THIS MIGHT HAPPEN..

WE WILL
TAKE THEM
OFF YOUR HANDS!
QUANTUM!
ALL THREE OF HIM!
WE'RE REAL IMPRESSED YOU LEARNED ENGLISH SINCE LAST TIME -- BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE RESOLVED IN BETWEEN TWO DISCRETE QUANTUM LEVELS, YOU'RE INTANGIBLE!
WE CAN'T HURT YOU -- BUT YOU CAN'T TOUCH US, OR ANYTHING ELSE!
YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT, FEMALE.
THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I BROUGHT ALONG--
WUNDARR!
THEM
HUH? THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THERE'S NO MORE WUNDARR! HE'S AQUARIAN NOW -- AND HE'S A TOTAL PACIFIST!
DON'T BET ON IT, ARCHER.
HE DIDN'T TEAR US A NEW SKYLIGHT BY ACCIDENT!

SLAKAHT-- ANGLING ON THE MOLE WAR MACHINE WAS STARTING TO FIX!
IF VERY MUCH OF IT HITS THOSE GUYS INSIDE--!
MY
VERY
PLAN.
I'LL SEE THAT IT DOESN'T!
HROH!
OOOH!
SO MUCH FOR "THE DIRECT ASSAULT! LET ME--!
STRAK
NUTS! ELECTRO-ARROW DIDN'T WORK!
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THROWN A JOY BUZZER AT HIM!
HE'S IGNORING MY KICK, TOO! THIS GUY IS SYROOOONG!
STAND ASIDE!
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER SHOT AT HIM!
I SPENT MONTHS SEEKING WAYS TO MENTALLY CONTROL AQUARIAN--
--AND TURN HIM BACK INTO WUNDARR! AS YOU CAN SEE, I FINALLY SUCCEEDED.

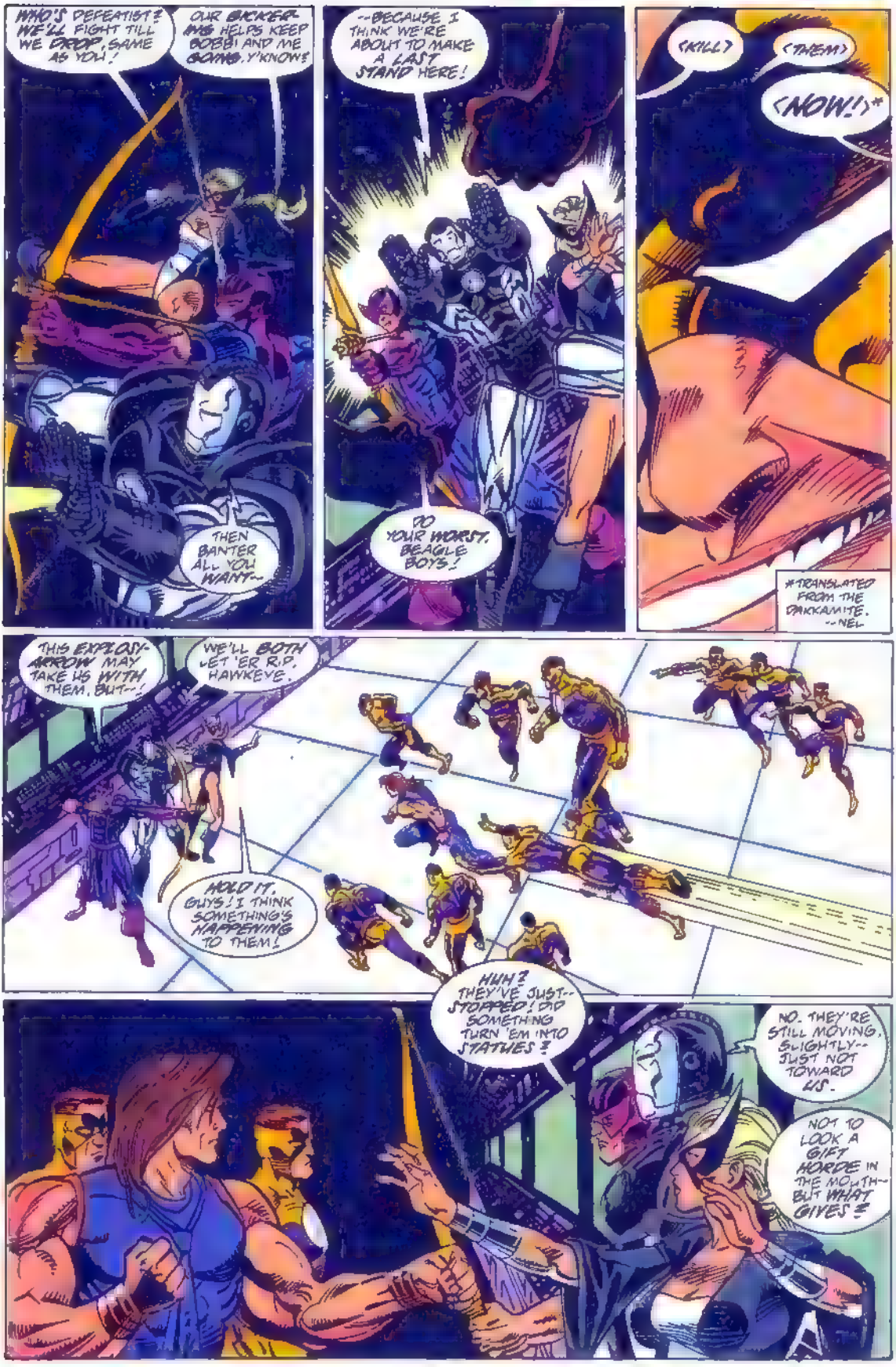

AS AQUARIAN, HE WAS MY ENEMY-- AND A FRIEND TO EARTH.
IN THIS FORM-- HE IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE!
SLAMMM!
HUHNNH! HE--DOESN'T SAY MUCH-- DOES HE?

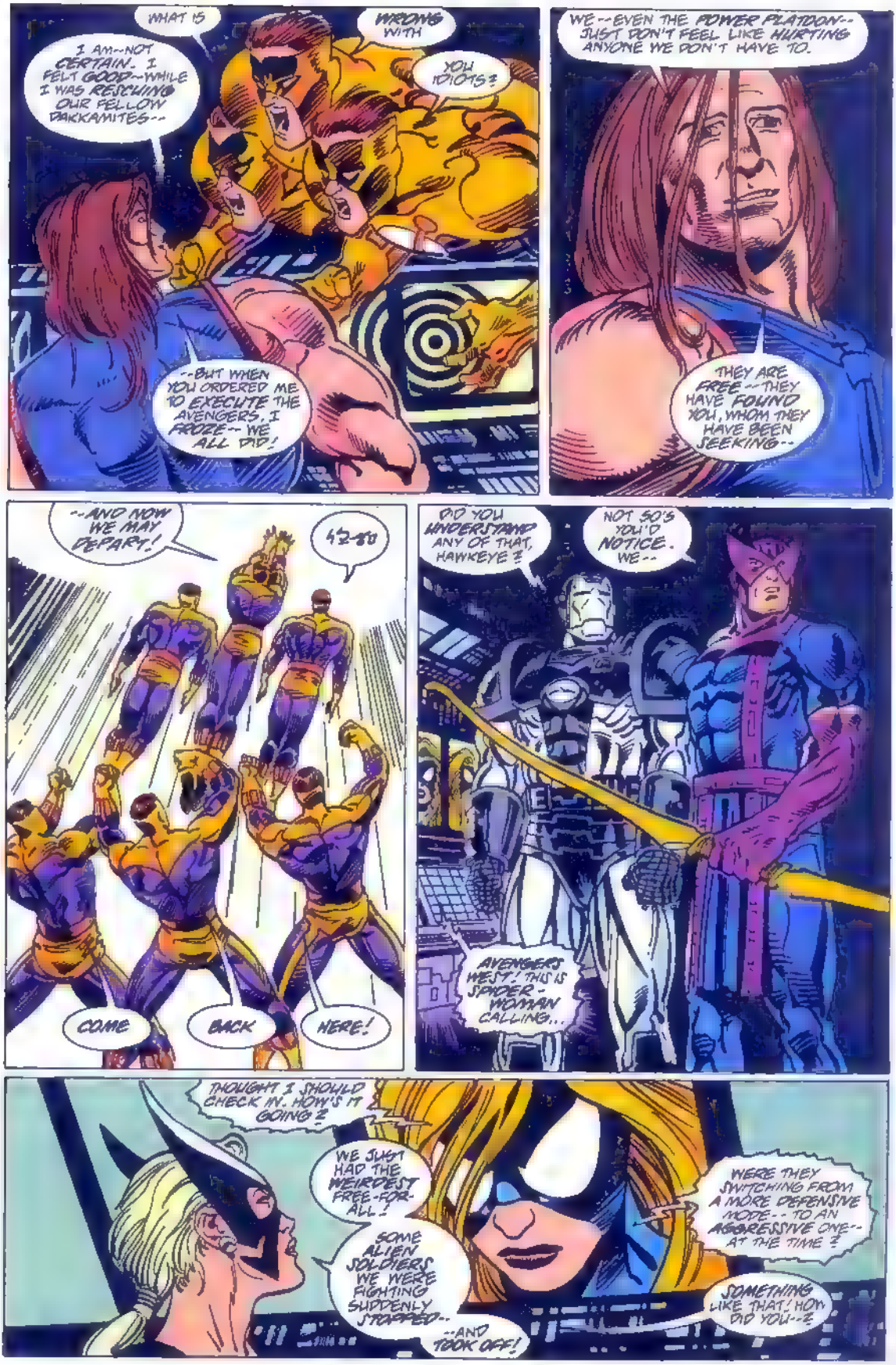
WHY SHOULD HE SPEAK--WHEN HIS THOUGHTS NOW ARE ONLY MINE?
SOLDIERS SPEAK WITH DEEDS!
TERRIFIC! HE'S TORN OPEN THE CAGE--
RRRRRRIIIP

--AND LET THE SUN SHINE IN! EXIT AGE OF AQUARIAN-- RE-ENTER AGE OF WUNDARR!
SAYS
SAYS

IF THEY REACH FULL POWER BEFORE WE CAN CORRAL THEM AGAIN--!
DON'T SWEAT IT, TWO-TONE! I STILL HAVE ONE SMOKE-ARROW UP MY SLEEVE, REMEMBER?

NOW MAYBE YOU CAN START SWEATING.
KIKT
TCH/S-
WHUFF!
SO MANY DIFFERENT POWERS--!
IT'S LIKE FIGHTIN' X-FACTOR, X-FORCE, AND THE X-MEN ALL AT THE SAME TIME!
DON'T EXAGGERATE, LOVER! THINGS ARE BAD ENOUGH!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! A COUPLE OF AVENGERS-- GOING DEFEATIST ON ME?
WOK


WHO'S DEFEATIST? WE'LL FIGHT TILL WE DROOP, SAME AS YOU!
OUR BICKERIN' HAS HELPS KEEP BOBBI AND ME GOING, Y'KNOW?
THEN BANTER ALL YOU WANT--
--BECAUSE I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE A LAST STAND HERE!
DO YOUR WORST, BEAGLE BOYS!
<KILL>
<THEM>
<NOW!>*
*TRANSLATED FROM THE DAKKAM'ITE. --NEL
THIS EXPLOSY-ARROW MAY TAKE US WITH THEM. BUT--!
WE'LL BOTH LET 'ER R.P. HAWKEYE.
HOLD IT, GUYS! I THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THEM!
HUH? THEY'VE JUST-- STOPPED! DID SOMETHING TURN 'EM INTO STATUES?
NO. THEY'RE STILL MOVING, SLIGHTLY-- JUST NOT TOWARD US.
NOT TO LOOK A GIFT HORDE IN THE MOUTH-- BUT WHAT GIVES?


I AM--NOT CERTAIN. I FELT GOOD--WHILE I WAS RESCUING OUR FELLOW DAKKAMITES--
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU IDIOTS?
--BUT WHEN YOU ORDERED ME TO EXECUTE THE AVENGERS, I FROZE-- WE ALL DID!
WE--EVEN THE POWER PLATOON--JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE HURTING ANYONE WE DON'T HAVE TO.
THEY ARE FREE--THEY HAVE FOUND YOU, WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN SEEKING--
--AND NOW WE MAY DEPART!
42-80
COME BACK HERE!
DID YOU UNDERSTAND ANY OF THAT, HAWKEYE?
NOT SO'S YOU'D NOTICE. WE--
AVENGERS WEST. THIS IS SPIDER-WOMAN CALLING...
THOUGHT I SHOULD CHECK IN. HOW'S IT GOING?
WE JUST HAD THE WEIRDEST FREE-FOR-ALL!
SOME ALIEN SOLDIERS WE WERE FIGHTING SUDDENLY STOPPED--
--AND TOOK OFF!
WERE THEY SWITCHING FROM A MORE DEFENSIVE MODE--TO AN AGGRESSIVE ONE--AT THE TIME?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. HOW DID YOU--?

SAME THING'S HAPPENED ONE OR TWO OTHER PLACES.
THOSE "SOLDIERS" MUST'VE BEEN ACTING ACCORDING TO THEIR CODE-- TILL THEY TOOK THE OFFENSIVE.
THEN THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS STRANGE THING THAT'S NEGATED ALL CRIME ON EARTH KICKED IN.
SURE! THEY WEREN'T REALLY CROOKS-- JUST TROOPS!
AND WUNDARR'S STILL THE PACIFIST AQUARIAN AT HEART-- EVEN IF QUANTUM TOOK HIM OVER FOR A WHILE!
GUESS YOU WEREN'T AFFECTED BECAUSE YOU'RE IN BETWEEN SPACES
I'LL GET FREE YET!
AND THEN--
--YOU DIE!
EVERYBODY DIES SOONER OR LATER, QUANTUM. WE'LL TAKE OUR CHANCES.
SAVE YOUR BREATH, HON.
HE'S SPLIT.
LEAVING US AS MUCH IN THE DARK ABOUT OUR MISSING AVENGERS AS EVER!
YEAH, BUT DID YOU EVER THINK--MAYBE NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!
WHOEVER SCOOPED 'EM UP SEEMED TO HAVE A GOOD PURPOSE IN MIND, FROM WHAT WANDA TOLD US.
THEY'RE PROBABLY OFF ON SOME KIND OF CRUSADE-- SAVING THE WORLD, OR WHATEVER.
AND MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING A LOT MORE SINISTER HAWKEYE.
EITHER WAY-- I JUST WISH--
--I JUST WISH WE KNEW.
THE INFINITY CRUSADE
CONTINUES IN OTHER MARVEL MAGS!
AND, IN AWC #90
THE HANGMAN RETURNS WITH THE NEW
LETHAL LEGION!

THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU-- NEXT ISSUE!!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MYSTERIOUS DARKHAWK.

AVENGERS MANSION, NEW YORK CITY.
I BLEW IT.
I PROMISED MY FAMILY I'D BE THERE FOR THEM NO MATTER WHAT...
...YET HERE I AM AGAIN, GETTING READY TO TRY TO SAVE THE WORLD WITH A BUNCH OF COSTUMED CLOWNS.
AND WHAT ARE WE SAVING THE WORLD FROM? AN EPIDEMIC...
THIS EVIL UNLEASHED
* SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #'S 1 & 2 FOR DETAILS.--NEL

DANNY FINGEROTH WRITER * ANTHONY WILLIAMS PENCILER * IAN AKIN INKER * TROY SAYERS COLORIST * BILL OAKLEY LETTERER * NEL YOMTOV EDITOR * TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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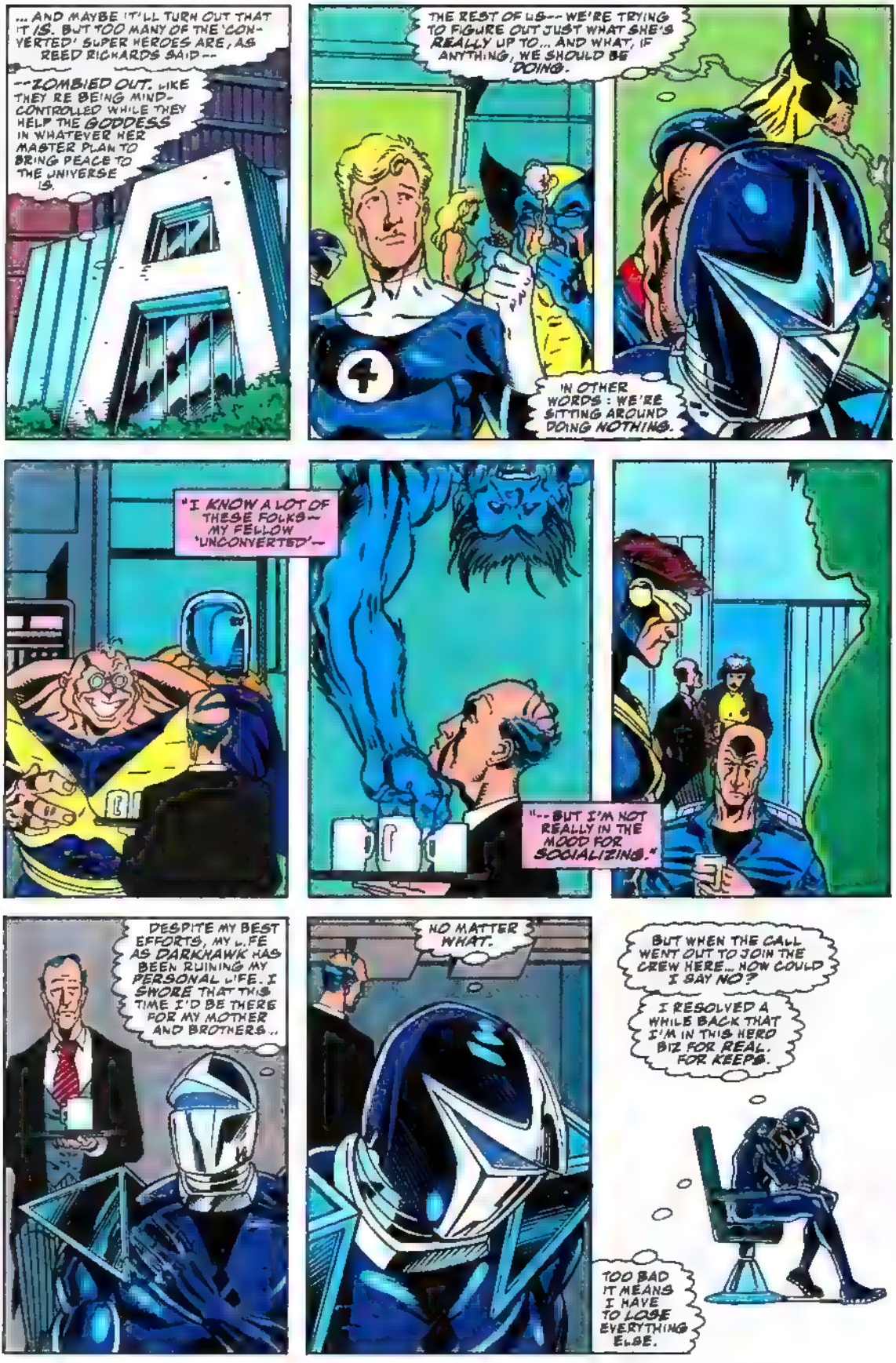
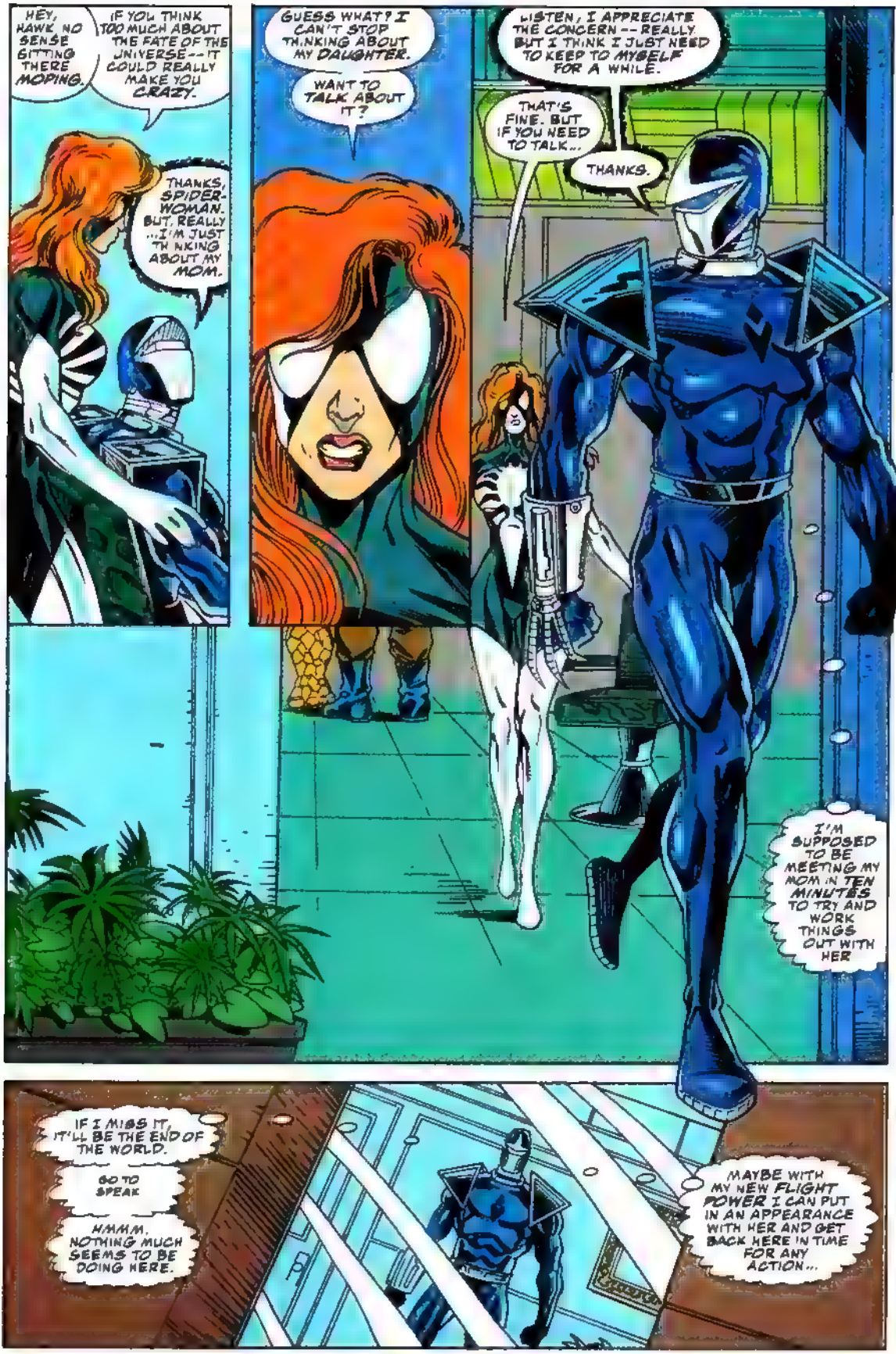
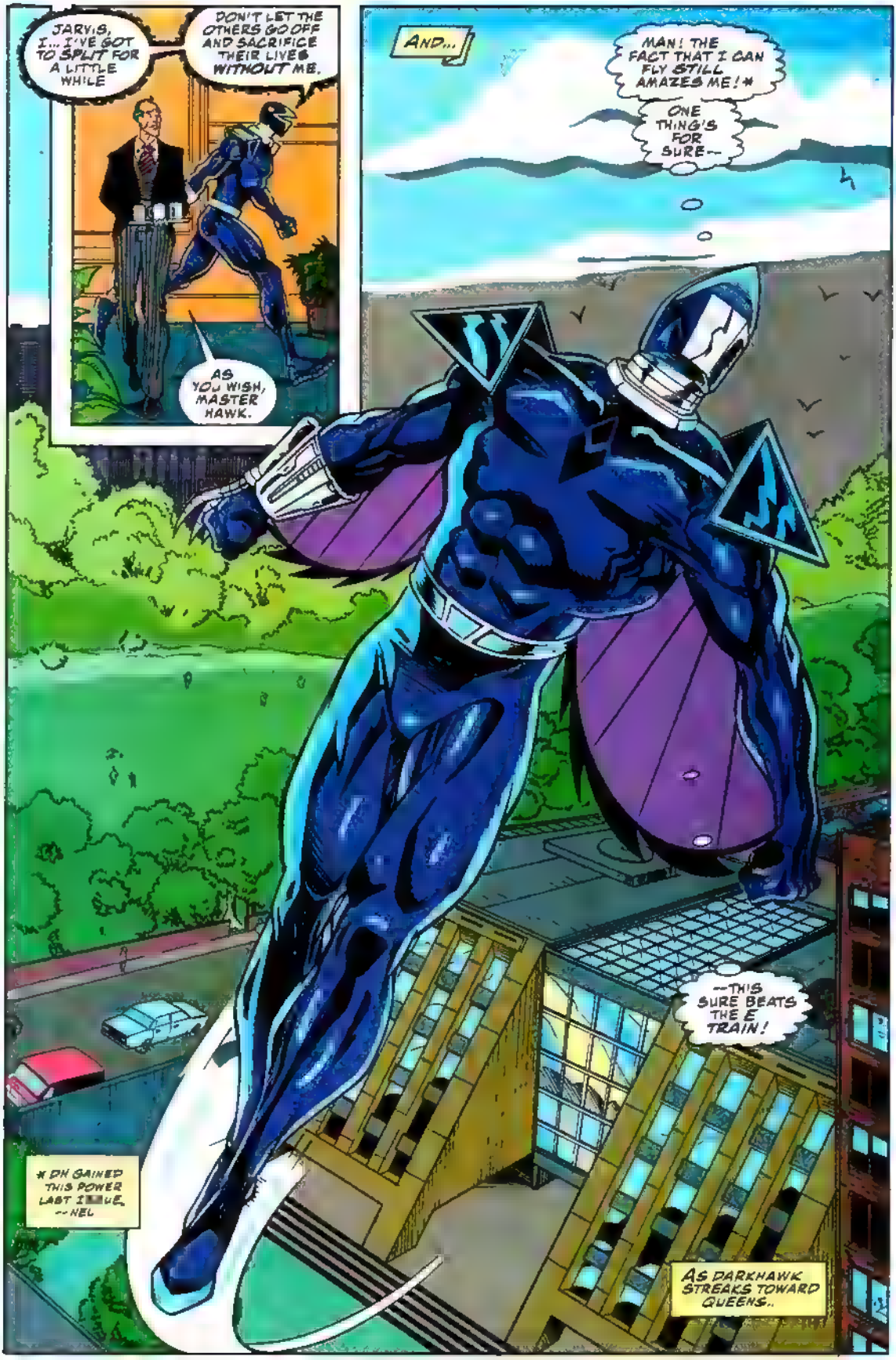
"... OF PEACE AND GOOD WILL."
INDEED, ALL OVER THE GLOBE, CRIME AND VIOLENCE HAVE VIRTUALLY STOPPED.
IN BEATING AN ABUSIVE FATHER...
...REPENTS.
IN LATIN AMERICA, A TORTURER...
...REALIZES THE HORROR OF HIS SADISTIC CRAFT...
...AND SETS HIS VICTIM FREE.

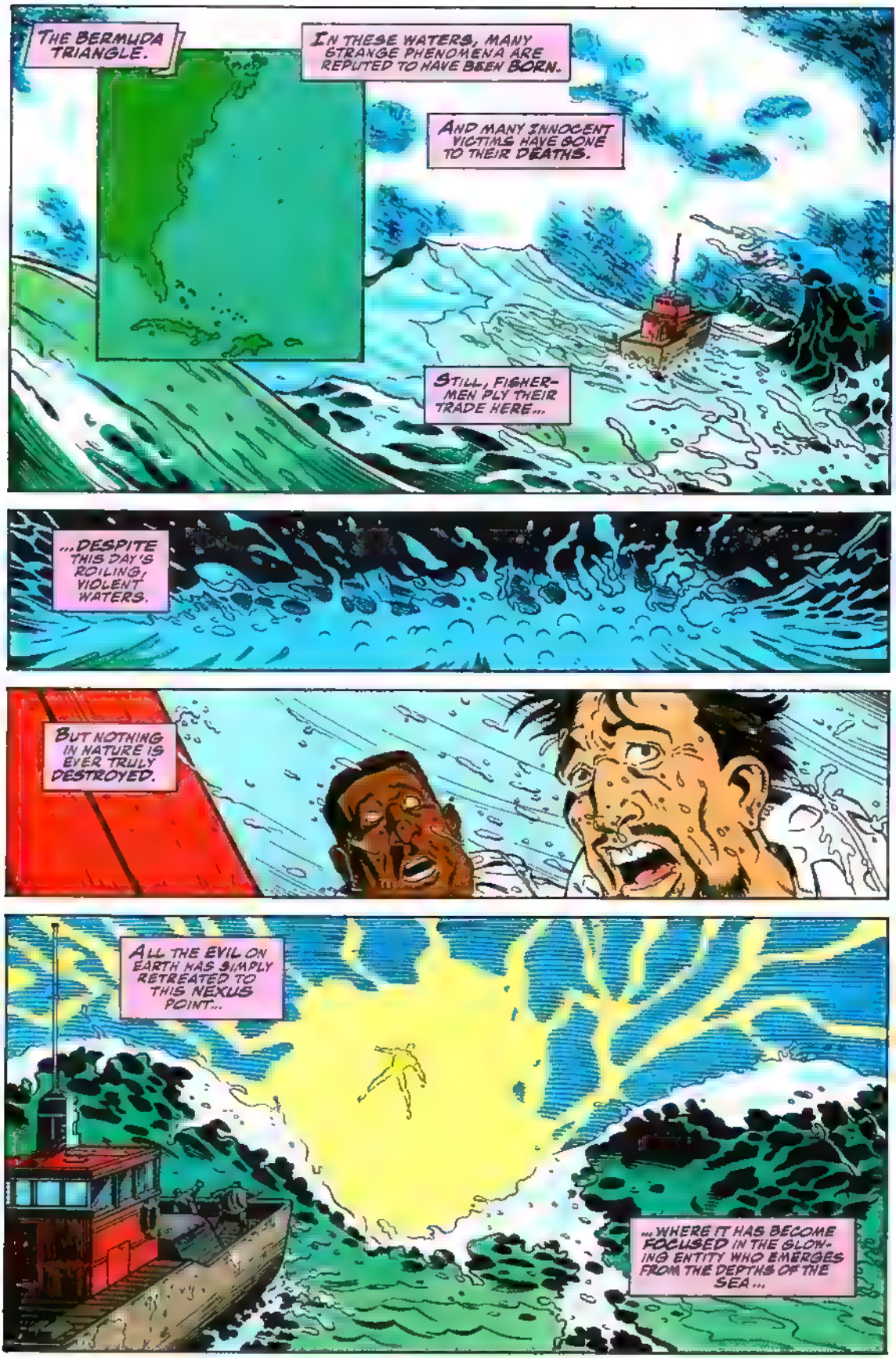
IN NEW YORK ITSELF, THE SUPER-VILLAIN CALLED THE BEETLE...
...THINKS BETTER OF THE ARMORED CAR THEFT HE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF.
IN BRIXTON, ENGLAND..
...A TERRIFYING MUGGING ENDS...
...AS QUICKLY AS IT HAD STARTED
"YEAH, YOU WOULD THINK THAT EVERYBODY GETTING ALONG WOULD BE GOOD..."

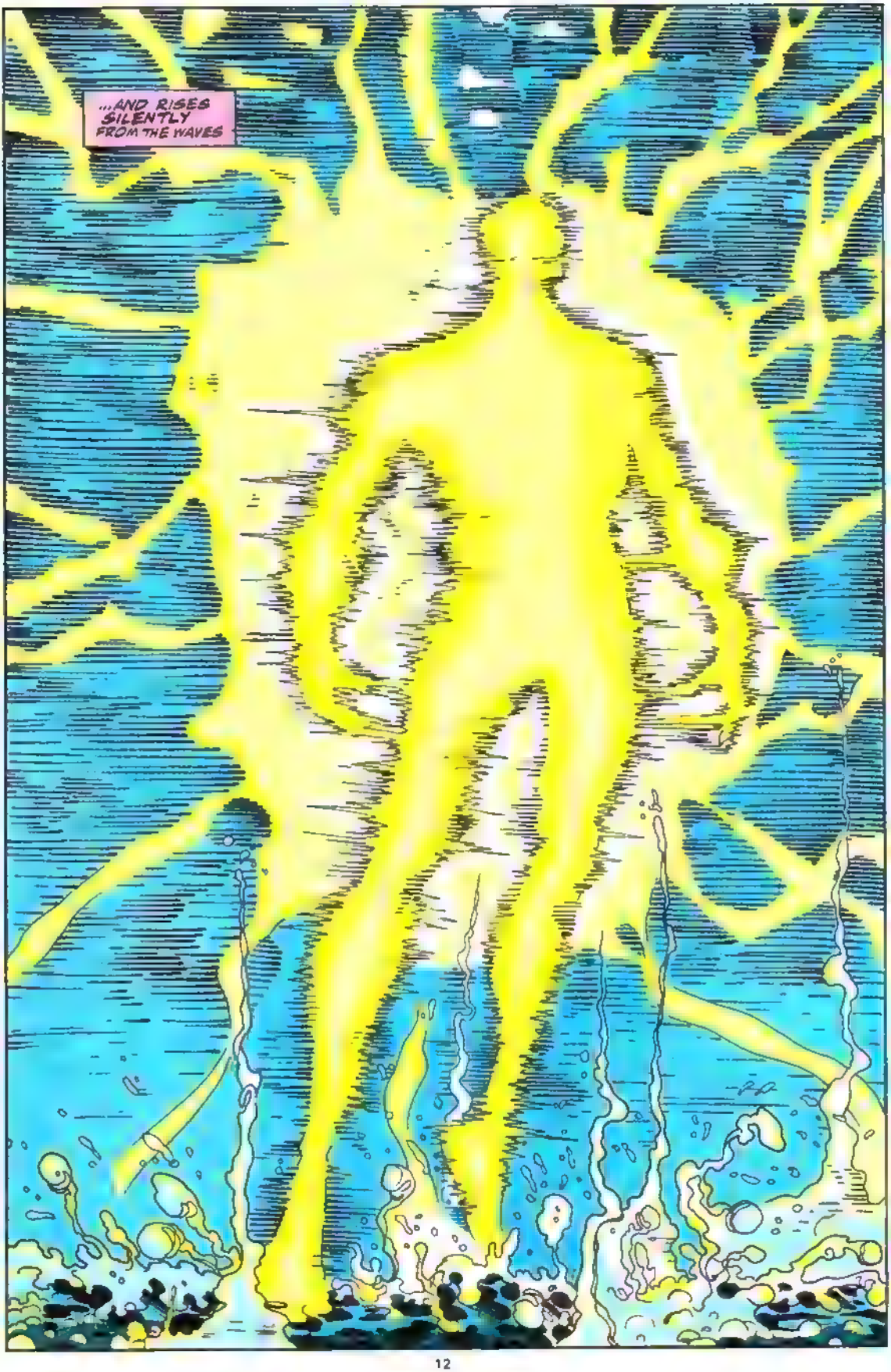

... AND MAYBE IT'LL TURN OUT THAT IT IS. BUT TOO MANY OF THE 'CONVERTED' SUPER HEROES ARE, AS REED RICHARDS SAID --
--ZOMBIED OUT. LIKE THEY'RE BEING MIND-CONTROLLED WHILE THEY HELP THE GODDESS IN WHATEVER HER MASTER PLAN TO BRING PEACE TO THE UNIVERSE IS.
THE REST OF US-- WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT SHE'S REALLY UP TO... AND WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WE SHOULD BE DOING.
IN OTHER WORDS: WE'RE SITTING AROUND DOING NOTHING.
"I KNOW A LOT OF THESE FOLKS-- MY FELLOW 'UNCONVERTED'--
"-- BUT I'M NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD FOR SOCIALIZING."
DESPITE MY BEST EFFORTS, MY LIFE AS DARKHAWK HAS BEEN RUINING MY PERSONAL LIFE. I SWORE THAT THIS TIME I'D BE THERE FOR MY MOTHER AND BROTHERS..
NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT WHEN THE CALL WENT OUT TO JOIN THE CREW HERE... HOW COULD I SAY NO?
I RESOLVED A WHILE BACK THAT I'M IN THIS HERO BIZ FOR REAL. FOR KEEPS.
TOO BAD IT MEANS I HAVE TO LOSE EVERYTHING ELSE.

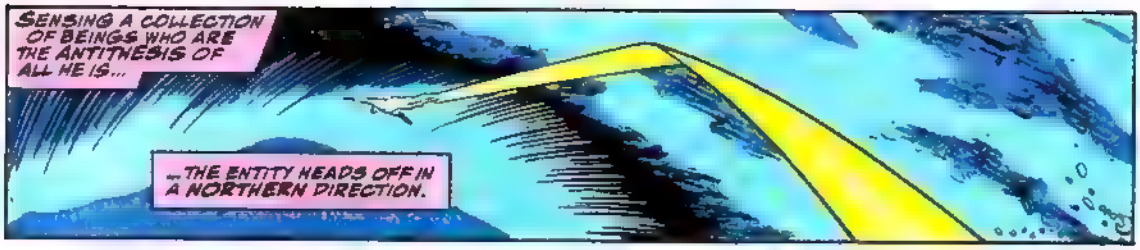

HEY, HAWK, NO SENSE SITTING THERE MOPING.
IF YOU THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE -- IT COULD REALLY MAKE YOU CRAZY.
THANKS, SPIDER-WOMAN. BUT, REALLY ...I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT MY MOM.
GUESS WHAT? I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT MY DAUGHTER.
WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
LISTEN, I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN -- REALLY. BUT I THINK I JUST NEED TO KEEP TO MYSELF FOR A WHILE.
THAT'S FINE. BUT IF YOU NEED TO TALK...
THANKS.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING MY MOM IN TEN MINUTES TO TRY AND WORK THINGS OUT WITH HER
IF I MISS IT, IT'LL BE THE END OF THE WORLD.
SO TO SPEAK
HMMM. NOTHING MUCH SEEMS TO BE DOING HERE.
MAYBE WITH MY NEW FLIGHT POWER I CAN PUT IN AN APPEARANCE WITH HER AND GET BACK HERE IN TIME FOR ANY ACTION...


JARVIS, I... I'VE GOT TO SPLIT FOR A LITTLE WHILE
DON'T LET THE OTHERS GO OFF AND SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES WITHOUT ME.
AS YOU WISH, MASTER HAWK.
AND...
MAN! THE FACT THAT I CAN FLY STILL AMAZES ME!*
ONE THING'S FOR SURE--
--THIS SURE BEATS THE E TRAIN!
* DH GAINED THIS POWER LAST ISSUE. --NEL
AS DARKHAWK STREAKS TOWARD QUEENS..

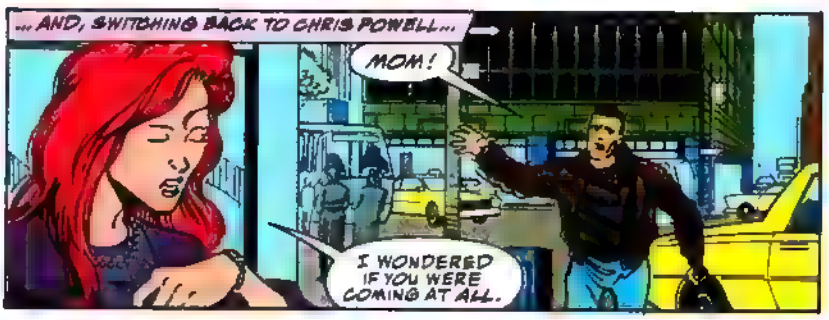
...ON THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN, AS EVERYWHERE, CRIME HAS INDEED COME TO A HALT.
A LOCAL MOB CHIEFTAIN WAVES HELLO TO HIS NEW FRIEND... ONE OF NEW YORK'S FINEST.
YES, EVIL ON EARTH HAS BEEN BANISHED.
EXCUSE ME, SIR. DO YOU HAVE A LIGHT?
WHY, YES, IT'S--
UHRK
UNFORTUNATELY, MADNESS STILL EXISTS.
AND BRODERICK BAZIN IS QUITE INSANE.


THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.
IN THESE WATERS, MANY STRANGE PHENOMENA ARE REPUTED TO HAVE BEEN BORN.
AND MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS HAVE GONE TO THEIR DEATHS.
STILL, FISHERMEN PLY THEIR TRADE HERE...
...DESPITE THIS DAY'S ROILING, VIOLENT WATERS.
BUT NOTHING IN NATURE IS EVER TRULY DESTROYED.
ALL THE EVIL ON EARTH HAS SIMPLY RETREATED TO THIS NEXUS POINT...
...WHERE IT HAS BECOME FOCUSED IN THE GLOWING ENTITY WHO EMERGES FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA...

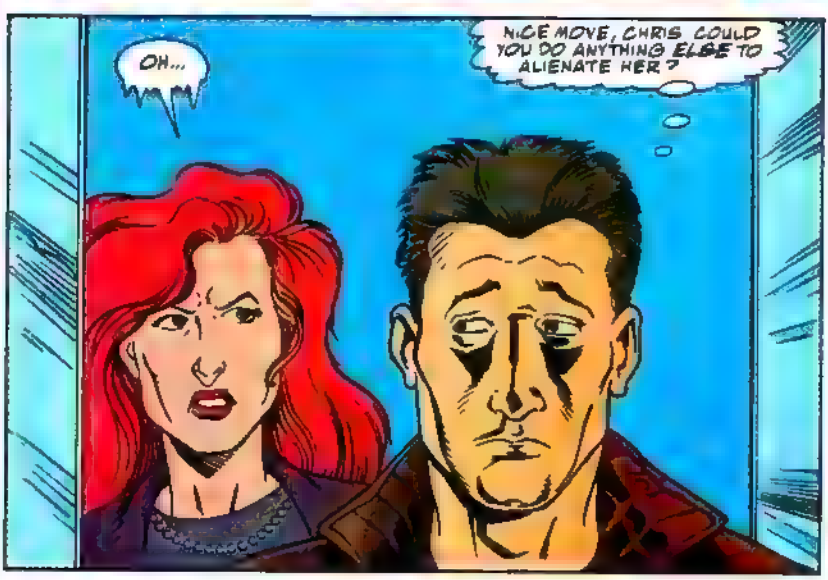

...AND RISES SILENTLY FROM THE WAVES


SENSING A COLLECTION OF BEINGS WHO ARE THE ANTITHESIS OF ALL HE IS...
...THE ENTITY HEADS OFF IN A NORTHERN DIRECTION.

QUEENS, NEW YORK.
DARKHAWK ALIGHTS NEAR THE COURT-HOUSE WHERE HIS MOTHER WORKS AS AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY...


...AND, SWITCHING BACK TO CHRIS POWELL...
MOM!
I WONDERED IF YOU WERE COMING AT ALL.

COME ON -- THERE'S SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT -- AND IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO GRAB AN HOUR FROM COURT
I REALLY DON'T EVEN HAVE THAT MUCH TIME..
TRIPLE DECKER
SODA


OH...
NICE MOVE, CHRIS. COULD YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE TO ALIENATE HER?

AND...
LEAN? YOU WANT THE CORNED BEEF LEAN? WE MIGHT BE ALL OUT OF LEAN
THEN FORGET THE LEAN.

NEVER MIND HER, CHRIS. WE REALLY DO NEED TO TALK.
NEITHER OF US NEEDS TO BE SUBTLE. SO I'LL JUST SAY IT.
YOU'RE SCREWING UP YOUR LIFE, CHRIS. BADLY.
SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL, DISAPPEARING AT ALL HOURS, NOT THERE FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND ME.

YEAH... I KNOW... I'M TRYING...
NOT HARD ENOUGH. YOU'RE STILL MY SON -- AND I LOVE YOU. BUT I CAN'T AND WON'T SIT BY WHILE YOU RUIN YOUR WHOLE FUTURE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO ABOUT IT?
WHAT I SHOULD DO IS TELL HER-- TELL HER I'M DARKHAWK, AND THAT THAT'S WHY I'VE HAD TO NEGLECT SO MUCH IN MY LIFE AS CHRIS

THAT'S IT--SHE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS. SHE'D UNDERSTAND--
--AND THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL SO GUILTY ALL THE TIME.
MOM--THE REASON FOR ALL THIS IS THAT I'M--
LEAN CORNED BEEF--JUST LIKE YA WANTED! THE BOSS FOUND SOME IN BACK OF THE FRIDGE!
HEY--WHERE'S THE LOOKS OF GRATITUDE?!
Vino's

RIGHT. THANKS.
NOW, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, CHRIS?
UH... NOTHING.
WHAT WAS I THINKING? HOW CAN I TELL HER--AND EXPECT HER NOT TO FREAK?!

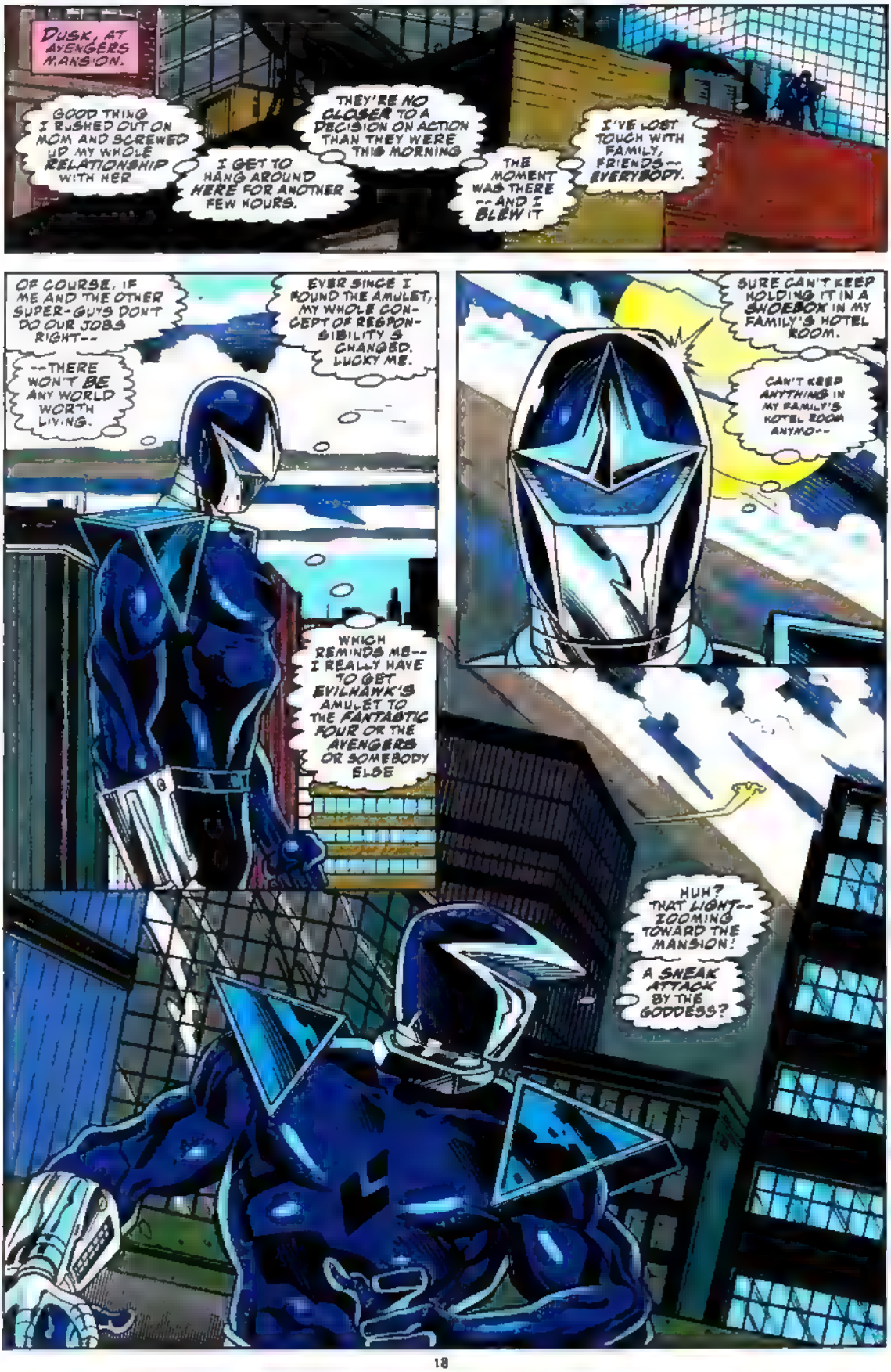
FIRE
WHOA--! LOOK AT THE TIME! I'VE BEEN GONE TOO LONG!
THE OTHERS MAY NEED ME!

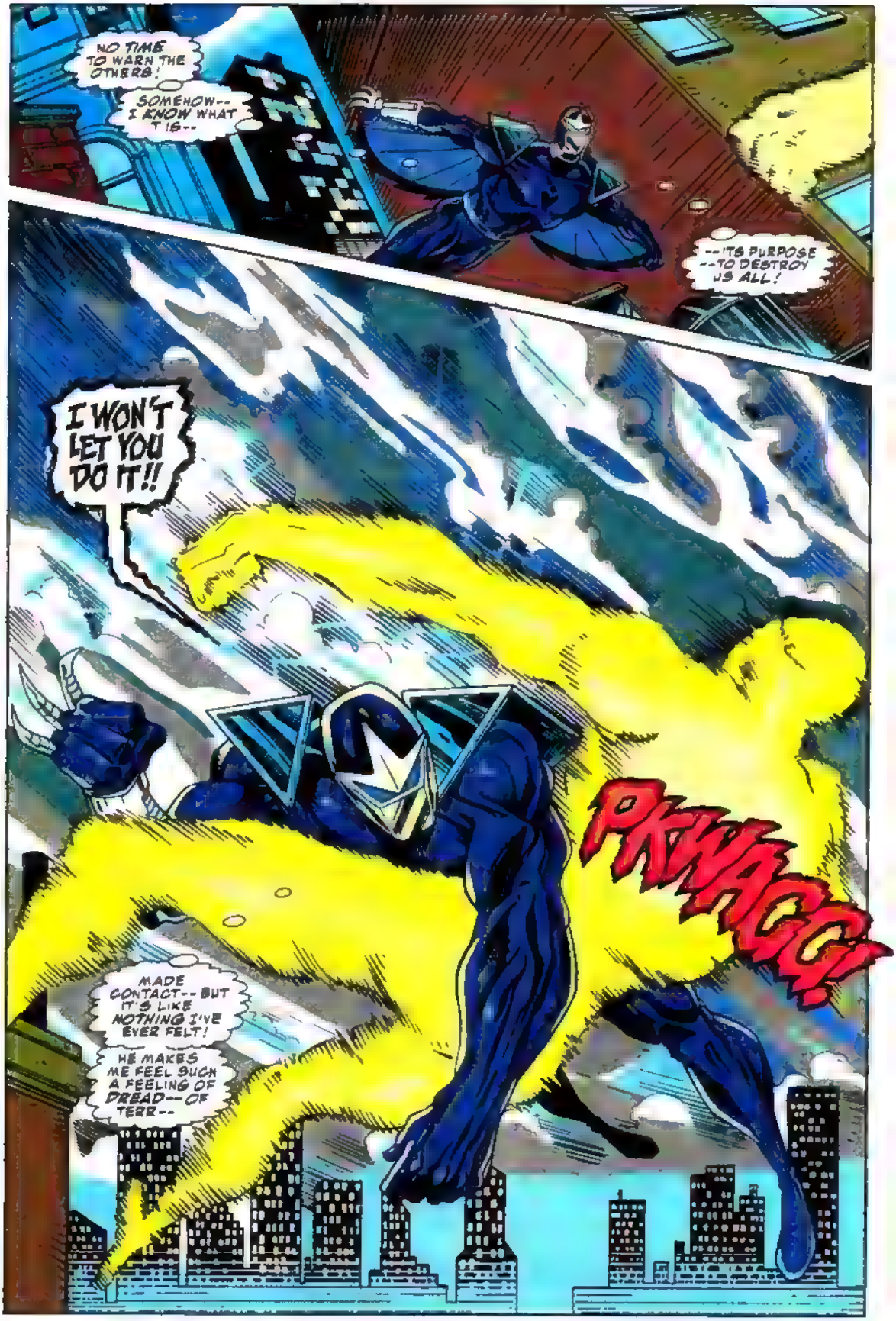
I--I'M SORRY, MOM --I'VE GOT TO GO.
NO.

STAY NOW-- OR YOU'RE OUT OF THE FAMILY.
ON YOUR OWN --ECONOMICALLY AND OTHERWISE.

FINE! SHOW HOW STUPID YOU ARE! I'VE GOT THINGS I'VE GOT TO DO-- IMPORTANT THINGS--
--THAT YOU'D NEVER UNDERSTAND!
CHRIS... YOU KNOW I'M ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU
BUT UNTIL YOU CAN GET YOURSELF TOGETHER EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT...

...YOU CANNOT LIVE WITH US ANYMORE.
THAT'S JUST FINE WITH ME. GOODBYE.


DUSK, AT AVENGERS MANSION.
GOOD THING I RUSHED OUT ON MOM AND SCREWED UP MY WHOLE RELATIONSHIP WITH HER
I GET TO HANG AROUND HERE FOR ANOTHER FEW HOURS.
THEY'RE NO CLOSER TO A DECISION ON ACTION THAN THEY WERE THIS MORNING
THE MOMENT WAS THERE --AND I BLEW IT
I'VE LOST TOUCH WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS-- EVERYBODY.
OF COURSE, IF ME AND THE OTHER SUPER-GUYS DON'T DO OUR JOBS RIGHT--
--THERE WON'T BE ANY WORLD WORTH LIVING.
EVER SINCE I FOUND THE AMULET, MY WHOLE CONCEPT OF RESPONSIBILITY S CHANGED. LUCKY ME.
WHICH REMINDS ME-- I REALLY HAVE TO GET EVILHAWK'S AMULET TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR OR THE AVENGERS OR SOMEBODY ELSE
SURE CAN'T KEEP HOLDING IT IN A SHOEBOX IN MY FAMILY'S HOTEL ROOM.
CAN'T KEEP ANYTHING IN MY FAMILY'S HOTEL ROOM ANYMO--
HUH? THAT LIGHT-- ZOOMING TOWARD THE MANSION!
A SNEAK ATTACK BY THE GODDESS?


NO TIME TO WARN THE OTHERS!
SOMEHOW-- I KNOW WHAT 'T IS--
--ITS PURPOSE --TO DESTROY US ALL!
I WON'T LET YOU DO IT!!
PKWAGG!
MADE CONTACT-- BUT IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER FELT!
HE MAKES ME FEEL SUCH A FEELING OF DREAD-- OF TERR--

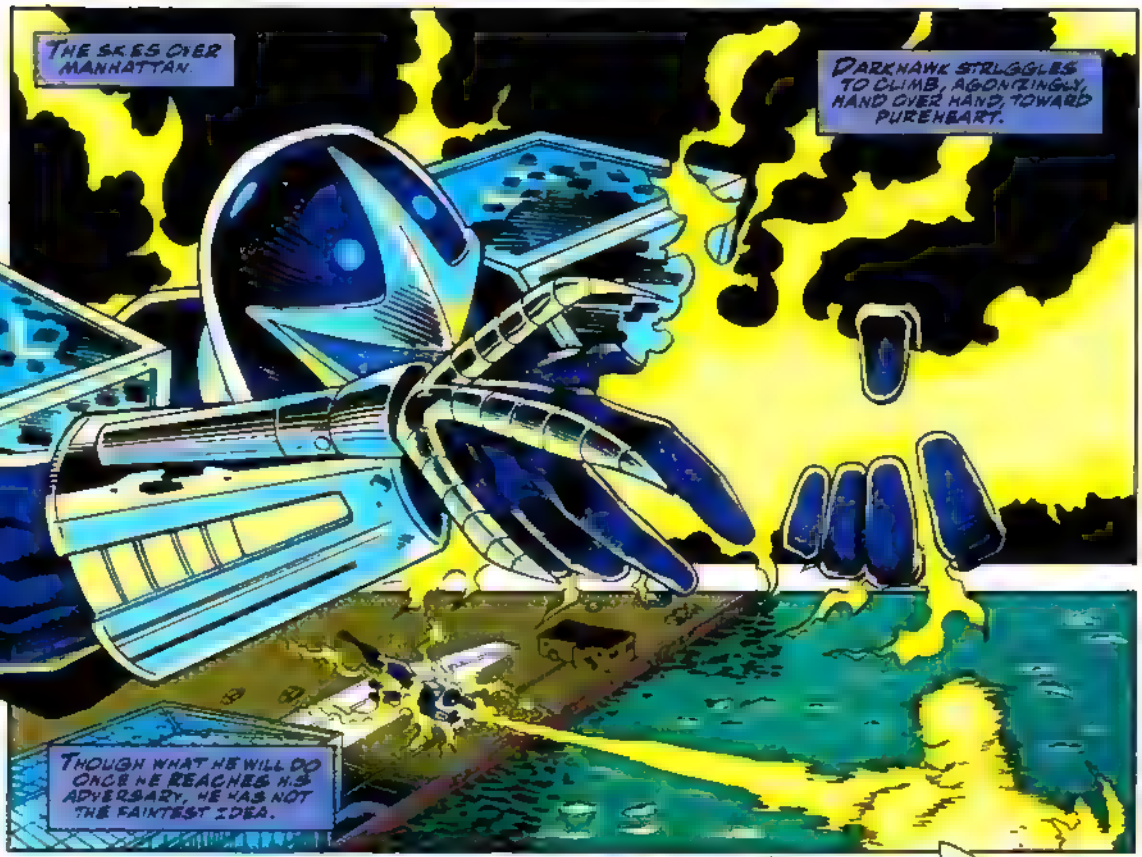
EEYAAAA
HE--HE SHRUGGED ME OFF--!
BUT--I CAN FLY NOW--
--CAN CONTROL THIS--
YES!
BUT BEFORE DARK-HAWK CAN RETURN TO HIS FOE--
AARAGGH!
PURE WHITE-- TENDRILS --OF--
--EVIL?
HOW DID I KNOW THAT'S WHAT IT IS?

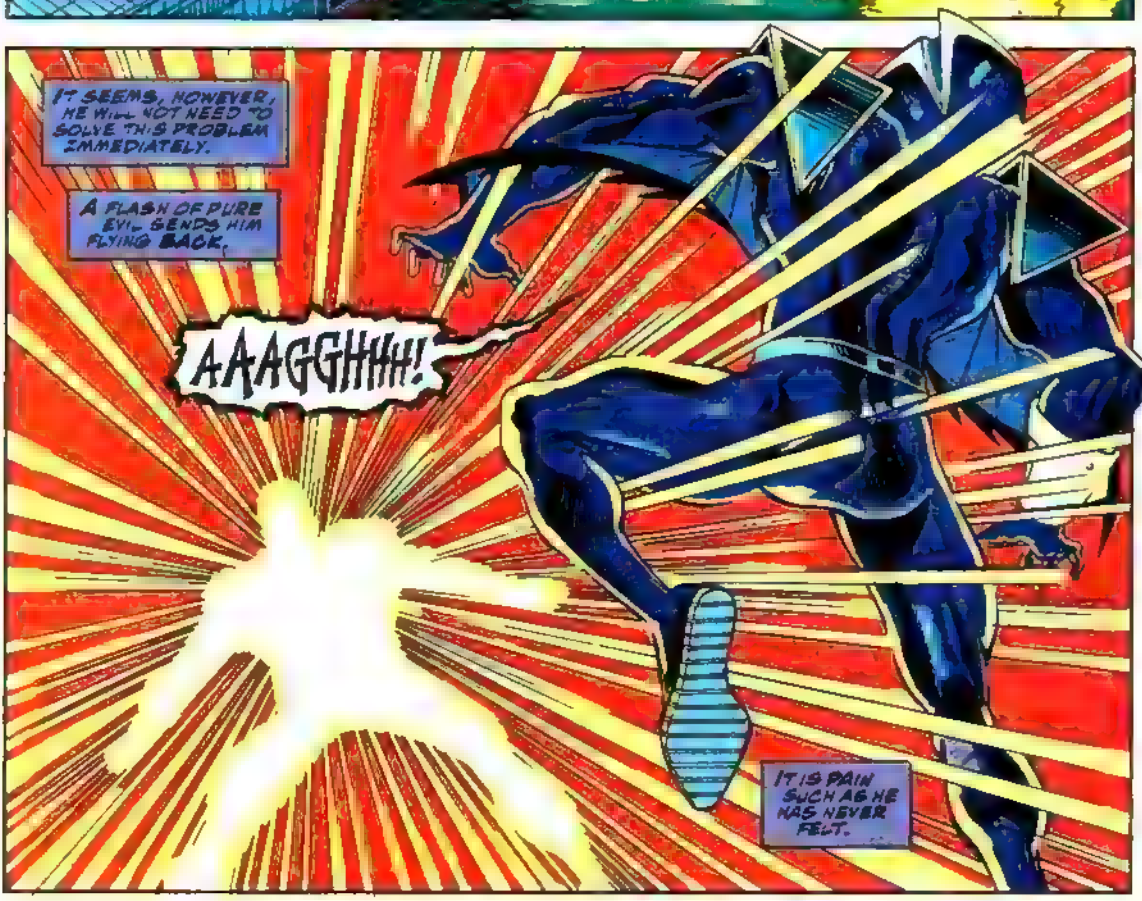
WESTCHESTER
THE MARLOWE SCHOOL.
ALLEGRA BAZIN ARRIVES, LATE FOR THE START OF THE SPRING STUDENT FASHION SHOW

DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHER TO COME TO THIS SILLY--
OH, SISTER
WHAT--

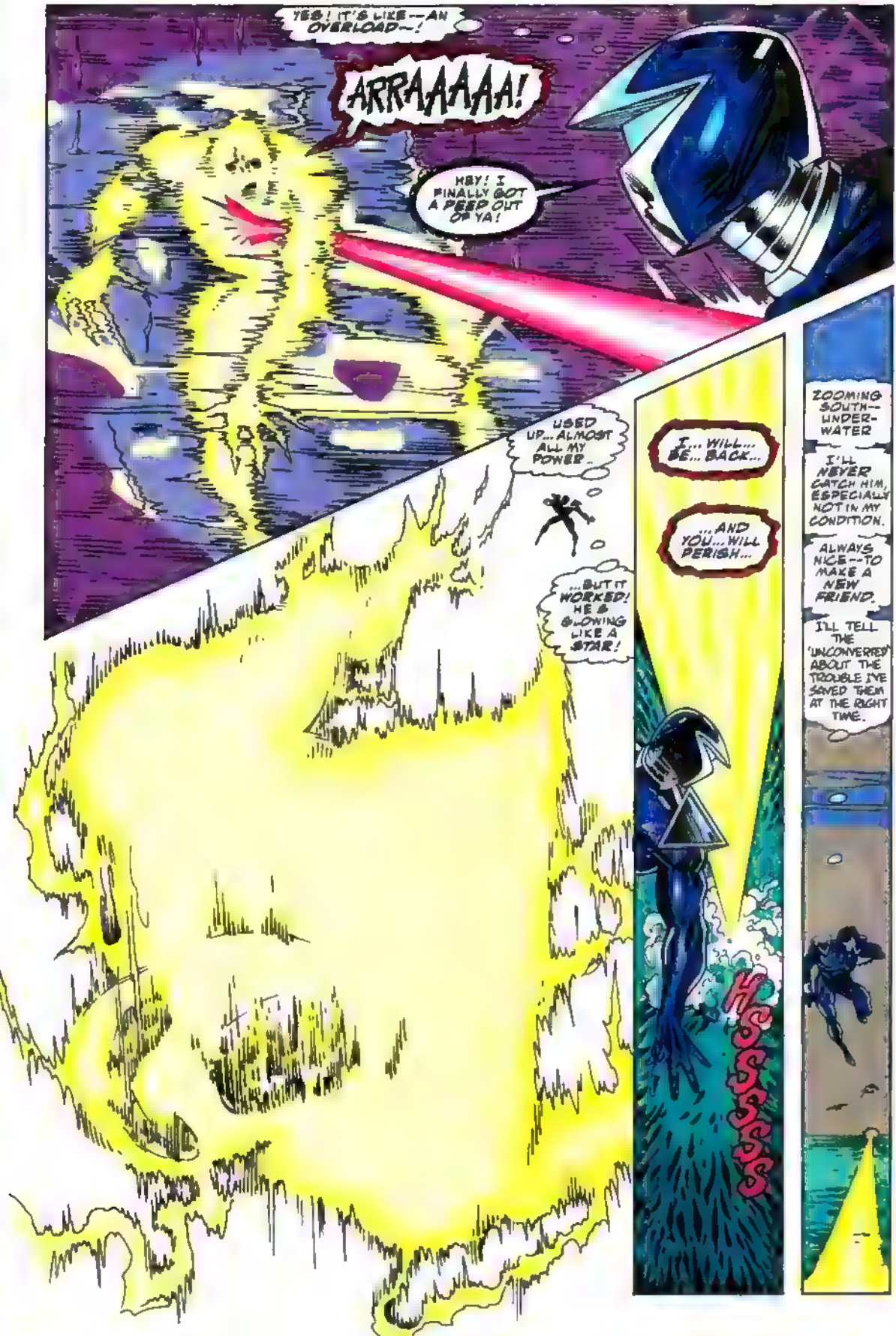
--BRODY?!
YOU-- YOU'VE GOT BLOOD ON YOUR SHIRT..
YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, HAVEN'T Y--
SHUT UP. I'VE DONE WHAT I HAVE TO DO. FOR DAD. FOR THE FAMILY.
YOU'VE HELD WHAT YOU KNOW OVER ME FOR TOO LONG, ALLEGRA

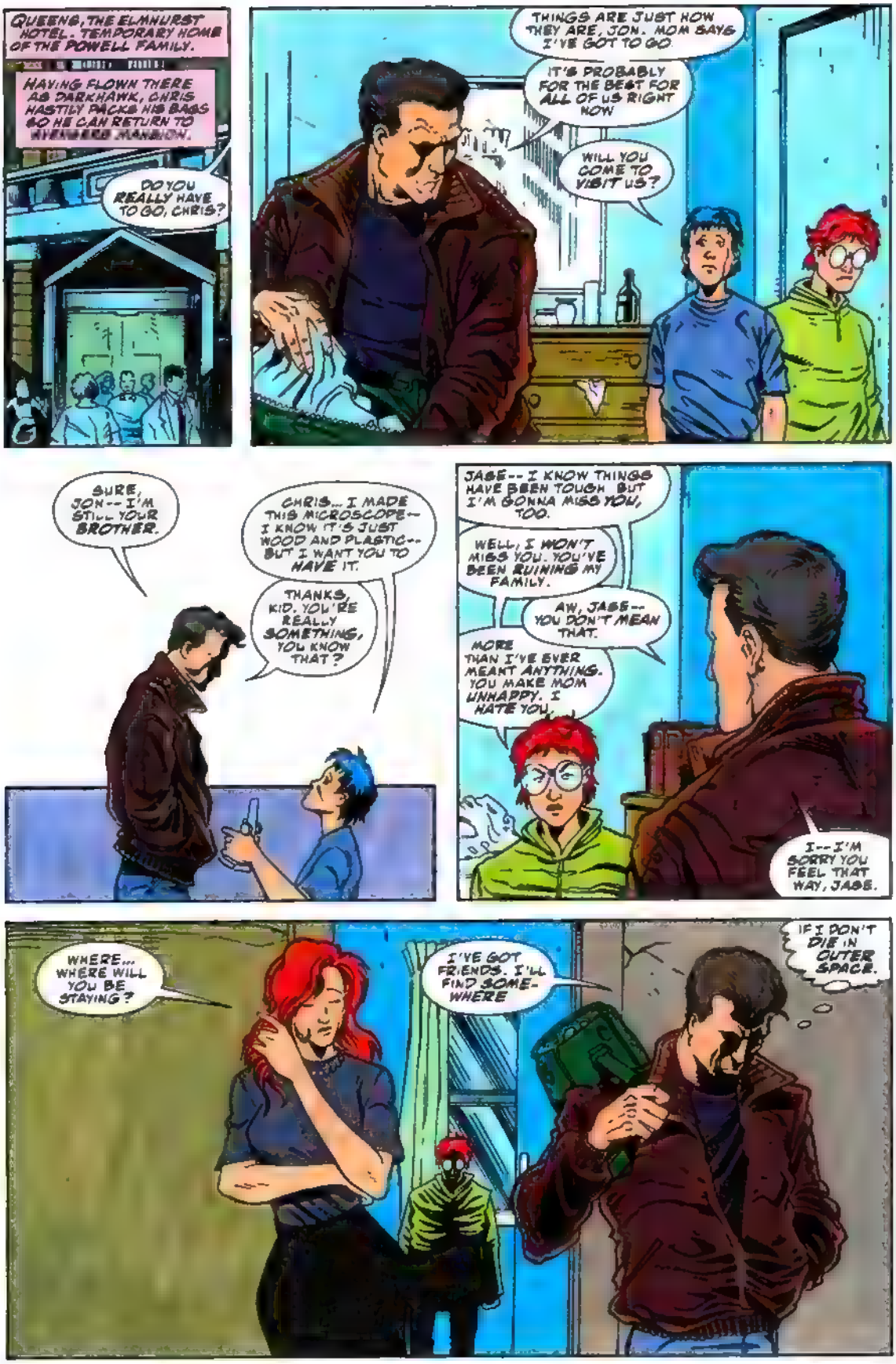
I HAVE WORK TO DO. KEEP OUT OF IT.
OR YOU'LL BE ON MY LIST.
BROD-- LISTEN TO ME--
GONE.
CHRIS. CHRIS POWELL-- HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP ME!


THE SKIES OVER MANHATTAN.
DARKHAWK STRUGGLES TO CLIMB, AGONIZINGLY, HAND OVER HAND, TOWARD PUREHEART.
THOUGH WHAT HE WILL DO ONCE HE REACHES HIS ADVERSARY, HE HAS NOT THE FAINTEST IDEA.


IT SEEMS, HOWEVER, HE WILL NOT NEED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY.
A FLASH OF PURE EVIL SENDS HIM FLYING BACK.
AAAGGHHH!
IT IS PAIN SUCH AS HE HAS NEVER FELT.

LET'S SEE HOW A FULL POWER FORCEBLAST FAZES YOU, PAL.
HE--HE'S NOT EVEN MOVING. HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING--
--ELSE--?!
C-CAN'T TURN IT OFF--!
HE'S SAPPING ALL THE ENERGY OUT OF ME! GONNA DRAIN ME LIKE A BATTERY!
WAIT--! ANYBODY WHO LOOKS UNDER MY HELMET ALWAYS FREAKS! MAYBE--!
HE... HE'S LAUGHING AT IT...
HE GREW A FACE FOR A SECOND JUST TO DO IT...
WISH HE'D SAY SOMETHING! BUT--SOMEHOW--
--I KNOW WHAT HIS AIM IS: TO KILL ME AND THEN ALL THE OTHER HEROES.
AND--HE'S GONNA SUCCEED WITH ME.
ALL LIFE-ENERGY... FLOWING OUT--
MAYBE--IF I PLAY INTO HIS GAMBIT--
--POUR ON THE ENERGY--GIVE IT ALL TO HIM--!


YES! IT'S LIKE--AN OVERLOAD--!
ARRAAAAA!
HEY! I FINALLY GOT A PEEP OUT OF YA!
USED UP... ALMOST ALL MY POWER...
...BUT IT WORKED! HE'S GLOWING LIKE A STAR!
I... WILL... BE... BACK...
...AND YOU... WILL PERISH...
HSSSSS
ZOOMING SOUTH--UNDER-WATER
I'LL NEVER CATCH HIM, ESPECIALLY NOT IN MY CONDITION.
ALWAYS NICE--TO MAKE A NEW FRIEND.
I'LL TELL THE 'UNCONVERRED' ABOUT THE TROUBLE I'VE SAVED THEM AT THE RIGHT TIME.


QUEENS, THE ELMHURST HOTEL. TEMPORARY HOME OF THE POWELL FAMILY.
HAVING FLOWN THERE AS DARKHAWK, CHRIS HASTILY PACKS HIS BAGS SO HE CAN RETURN TO AVENGERS MANSION.
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO, CHRIS?
THINGS ARE JUST HOW THEY ARE, JON. MOM SAYS I'VE GOT TO GO.
IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST FOR ALL OF US RIGHT NOW.
WILL YOU COME TO VISIT US?
SURE, JON-- I'M STILL YOUR BROTHER.
CHRIS... I MADE THIS MICROSCOPE-- I KNOW IT'S JUST WOOD AND PLASTIC-- BUT I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT.
THANKS, KID. YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW THAT?
JASE-- I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN TOUGH BUT I'M GONNA MISS YOU, TOO.
WELL, I WON'T MISS YOU. YOU'VE BEEN RUINING MY FAMILY.
AW, JASE-- YOU DON'T MEAN THAT.
MORE THAN I'VE EVER MEANT ANYTHING. YOU MAKE MOM UNHAPPY. I HATE YOU.
I-- I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, JASE.
WHERE... WHERE WILL YOU BE STAYING?
I'VE GOT FRIENDS. I'LL FIND SOMEWHERE
IF I DON'T DIE IN OUTER SPACE.

SOON...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THEY'RE STILL DEBATING WHAT TO DO!
HEY, HAWK--
--WE HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH FROM YOU. YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO AFTER THE FOLKS WHO JOINED WITH THE GODDESS--
--OR DO WE JUST FIGURE THAT THEY'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR THEMSELVES PERSONALLY?
IS THE GODDESS A DEITY--AND IF SHE IS, DO WE HAVE TO OPPOSE HER--OR CONFORM WITH--
ICEMAN--THANKS FOR ASKING. BUT THESE ARE THE BIG QUESTIONS. I CAN'T EVEN ANSWER THE LITTLE ONES.
I'LL DO WHAT THE GROUP HERE DECIDES--BECAUSE I TRUST YOU GUYS.
I AM NEEDED HERE--WHATEVER WE END UP DOING.
Hunh.. I... I HAVE A FEELING THAT--WACKY AS IT SOUNDS--
--I MAY HAVE SAVED THE WORLD TODAY!
SO HOW COME I CAN'T LOOK MY MOM AND MY BROTHERS IN THE EYE?
CONTINUED IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE--AND THEN BACK HERE NEXT ISSUE FOR ANOTHER STAR-STUDDED I.C. CROSSOVER!

DARK MAIL

NELSON YOMTOV. . .editor **JOHN LEWANDOWSKI**. . .assistant editor
c/o Marvel Comics Group — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, NY 10016
Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name & address, though we will withhold that information on request.

Dear Nel,

Re: DARKHAWK #27.

The second chapter of the thrilling tale "Shattered Fates" was again senses-shattering (pun definitely intended), and provided us loyal readers with some new and unexpected insights into the characters of Darkhawk and the New Warriors. They all have to make the most important decision of their lives this time! Should they go back in time to change the thing they regretted most, or should they turn down Zarrko's offer and learn to live with the consequences of that most regretted moment?

Although I have the feeling there are more strings attached to Zarrko's offer than we can see right now, I do respect Chris Powell's choice; if I were him, I would've done exactly the same thing. This guy has really been through the wringer since he became Darkhawk! His life as that costumed super hero drove his family apart, got his dad killed, and even broke up his relationship with Cheryl...no wonder he chose to take a chance on Zarrko!

From the looks of page 16, even more trouble will enter Chris's life, since his brother seems to hate him for what he is doing to their mother. But that subplot will have to wait for now, since I'm already eagerly awaiting the next issue, in which we'll see Darkhawk and the New Warriors do some time-traveling!

Before I go, I'd like to give new penciler Tod Smith a hearty "Welcome Aboard!" His art is almost as good as the work of his predecessor, and as Tod gains more experience, he surely will become as good as Mike Manley. I'm looking forward to seeing more of your art, Tod!

Olav Boemer
Brugakker, 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands
Europe

Thanks for the vote of confidence in Tod, Olav, and we're really glad to know that you enjoyed #27. Now, what did you think of the following chapters?

Dear *Dark Mail*,

Allegra can't be trusted. She has an evil dark side that I don't see in Cheryl. Besides, would you go out with the daughter of your father's murderer, even if she is incredibly gorgeous? I also learned that Darkhawk looks great on a special cover (as on #25) and I'd like to know when you plan to do it again.

I like the way you guys have been putting the storyline together, especially when Chris discovers new things about his armor and his powers. I'd like to see special guest appearances by Wolverine, the Hulk, Moon Knight, and the Silver Surfer. You definitely should not show all of Darkhawk's face, but at least give us some clues as to how ugly it is. Keep up the great work, and see you in another long thirty.

Matt Beveridge
251 3rd Avenue
Sharon, PA 16146

There's a lot more to Allegra than meets the eye, Matt. Stay tuned for further developments in that area. As for some clues on what DH looks like, how's this: he's pretty darn fearsome! There, that ought to tide you over for a while.

Dear *Dark Mail*,

I have a few questions:

1) Will Chris/Darkhawk and family move or visit the west coast?

2) Will Chris tell someone soon that he is Darkhawk?

3) Will we ever see what's under the helmet?

4) Will Darkhawk get any new powers?

John A. Baron
(Address withheld by request)

Okay, John, here are your answers, in order:

1) DH has visited the west coast already, and even managed to team up with the Avengers West Coast while he was there!

2) Uh...paging Danny Fingeroth!

3) Are you sure you want to? It's pretty darn fearsome!

4) Uh...paging Danny Fingeroth!

Hey Nel,

What happened to Manley? I've been collecting DARKHAWK since the first issue and I think it's one of the best titles that Marvel publishes! But all of a sudden, just when everything was getting really good, the art went downhill! Tod draws Chris all right, I guess, but Darkhawk looks ridiculous! His helmet always looks crooked, or out of proportion. And when did Chris get those big 90210 sideburns? I don't wanna sound like a baby, but even Grace doesn't look good anymore. When the art isn't there, it takes a lot out of the comic book. I must say, however, that Tod does draw a pretty mean Spider-Man!

Marek Zeballos
19 General Karge Court
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

We're sorry to hear that you're less than thrilled with Tod's work thus far, Marek. All we ask is that you stick with us, because we're sure that you'll come to enjoy Tod's art as much as most of our readership has!

Dear *Dark Mail*,

I have some questions that may not be on all readers' minds, but I still consider them important.

1) How did Hobgoblin, Bazin, or for that matter, even Tombstone know so much about the amulet if it was such a secret to everyone else?

2) Are you ever going to make it clear as to how Portal obtained his Darkhawk armor (details, guys, details!)? Perhaps a back-up story such as you did with the Cabal.

Well, I guess that's it for now. Oh yeah — what's the deal with everyone voting for Allegra instead of Cheryl? Give Cheryl a break, guys, she's been through a lot!

Todd Holder
63 Pat Dr.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Well, at last it seems that the Cheryl supporters are finally coming out of the woodwork! We agree that the young lady has been through a lot, and was getting a real bum rap by some of our correspondents. As for what the future holds for her, we'll have to wait and see. As for your questions, Todd:

1) Those guys have REALLY good informants!

2) Always a possibility.

NEXT ISSUE: Join us in thirty as guest stars from the X-Men and the Fantastic Four mix it up with Darkhawk in "Punch-Out on the Intergalactic Express!" Part of the INFINITY CRUSADE crossover bonanza!

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THE DEVIL CAN CITE SCRIPTURE FOR HIS PURPOSE. --WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DEALING WITH THE DEVIL!
I, MEPHISTO, HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS THAT EVEN YOU, DARK THANOS, DO NOT.
WITHOUT THIS KNOWLEDGE YOUR CHANCES OF THWARTING THE PLANS OF ADAM WARLOCK'S GOOD FEMININE SIDE, THE GODDESS, ARE MINIMAL.
BUT BE WARNED, THIS DEMON GIVES NOTHING AWAY GRATIS.
ARE YOU AND WARLOCK PREPARED TO MEET MY PRICE?
CREATOR/WRITER JIM STARLIN
PENCILS TOM RANEY
INKS KEITH WILLIAMS
COLORIST GINA GOING
LETTERER JACK MORELLI
EDITOR CRAIG ANDERSON
CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

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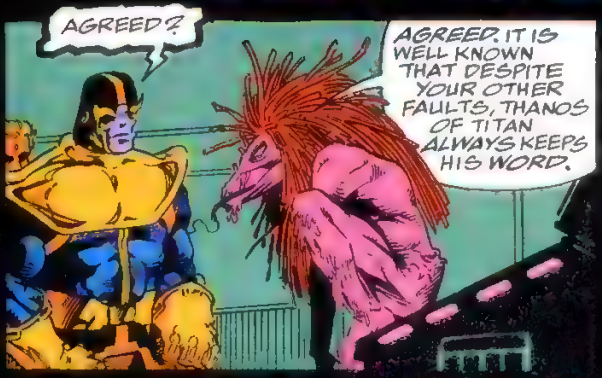
ON THE BRIDGE OF THANOS'S STARCRAFT...
WHAT WILL THAT EXPENDITURE BE, DEMON?
IF AND WHEN YOU SUCCEED IN DEFEATING THE GODDESS, I ASSUME HER COLLECTION OF COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS WILL BE BROKEN UP?
MOST DEFINITELY.
THEN THE PRICE FOR MY EXPERTISE AND SERVICES IS MERELY...
...ONE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT.

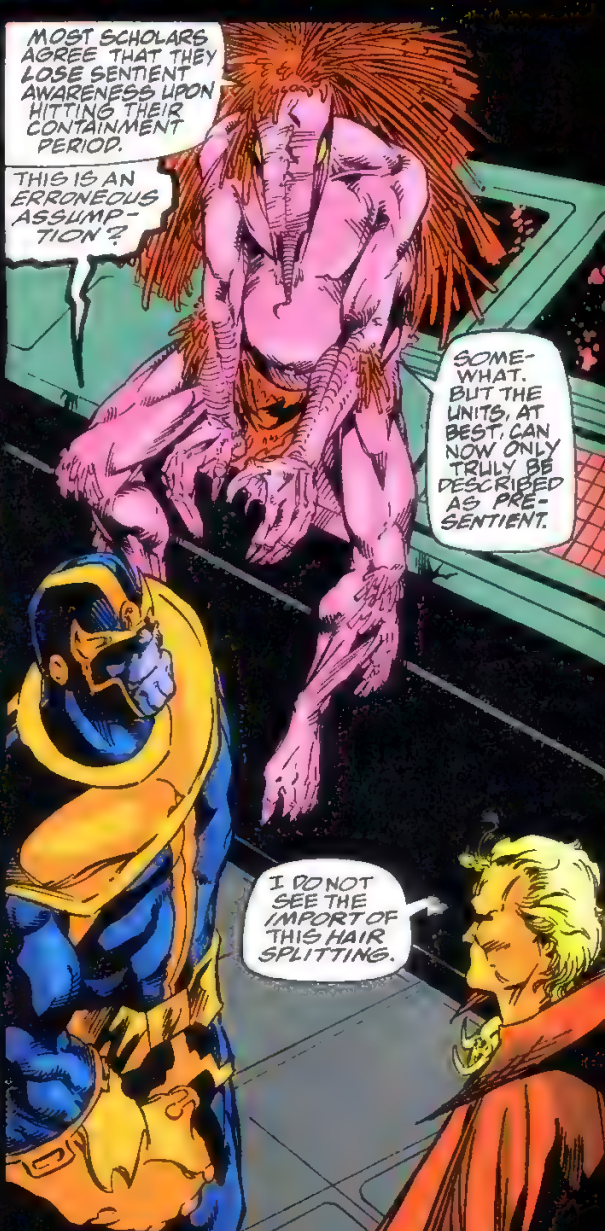
WHY WOULD MIGHTY MEPHISTO DESIRE SUCH A TRINKET?
BECAUSE THE UNITS GRANT ITS HOLDER NEARLY ANY WISH THAT CAN BE IMAGINED.
BUT YOU ALREADY RELISH SUCH POWER IN THE CONFINES OF YOUR DARK DOMAIN, HADES.
TRUE.
BUT I SOMETIMES FIND THE BORDERS OF MY REALM RATHER RESTRICTIVE.
OUTSIDE HADES YOUR MIGHT IS ALSO RATHER LIMITED, IS IT NOT?
A CONDITION I FIND MOST UNSATISFYING!
AND ONE I AND THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE FIND QUITE COMFORTING.
DO NOT SEEK TO MOCK ME, CRETINOUS MORTAL!
EVEN MY REDUCED POWER IS A FEARSOME THING TO BEHOLD WHEN FIRED BY ANGER!

YOU WOULD THREATEN ME?
HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, MEPHISTO?*
DO YOU NOT RECALL YOUR AGONIZING FATE WHEN BEFORE YOU CHALLENGED MY SOUL GEM?
REMEMBER TOO THAT CONTEST TOOK PLACE WITHIN YOUR PRECIOUS HADES WHERE YOU ONCE THOUGHT YOURSELF SUPREME!
DEFY ME NOW AND YOUR VERY EXISTENCE STANDS IN PERIL!
*RESURRECTION #4.--CRAIG

ENOUGH!
I SEEK NOT TO CHALLENGE YOUR MIGHT, WARLOCK.
TO BARGAIN WITH YOU IN GOOD FAITH IS WHY I AM HERE!
I DO NOT DEAL WITH DEMONS THIS DAY!
THEN YOU AND THE TITAN WILL FAIL IN YOUR MISSION!
WORDS FROM THE PRINCE OF DECEIVERS I SHOULD TAKE AS GOSPEL?!
YOU WOULD BE WISE TO.
I SPEAK--
LIES, AS ALWAYS!
HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE, I SENSE THE DEVIL SPEAKS THE TRUTH THIS TIME!
I, THANOS OF TITAN, AGREE TO YOUR TERMS, DEVIL.
YOU WILL NOT REGRET THIS BARGAIN, TITAN.
WHAT? ARE YOU MAD?!
TO GIVE THIS CREATURE SUCH UNLIMITED POWER WOULD BE INSANE FOLLY!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
YOU WILL NOT ALLOW?
WARLOCK, DO YOU FORGET WHO IT IS YOU ARE ADDRESSING?

I WILL HAVE NO PART IN THIS DEALING.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO.
THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN MEPHISTO AND MYSELF.

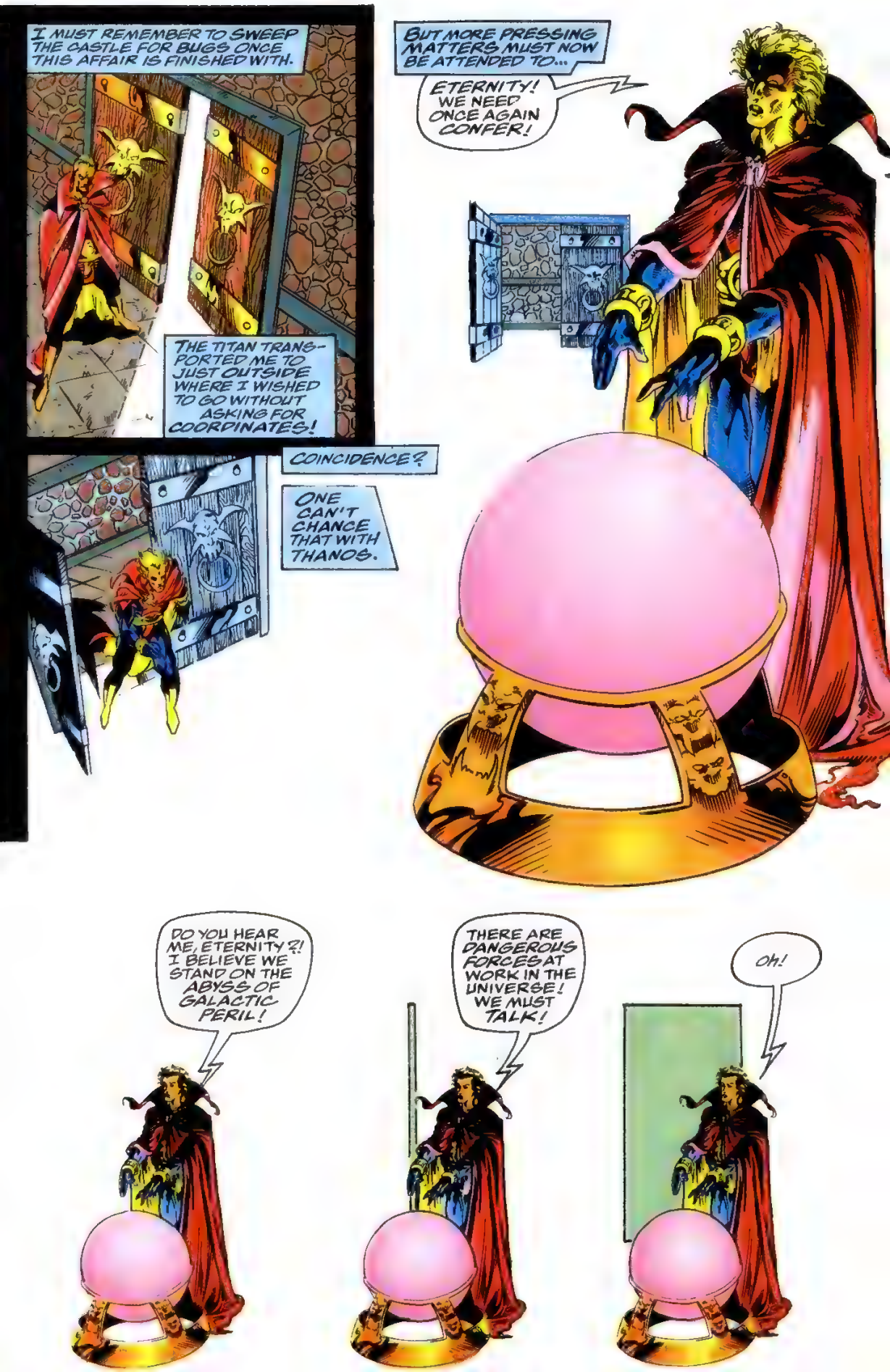

AGREED?
AGREED. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT DESPITE YOUR OTHER FAULTS, THANOS OF TITAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD.


MOST SCHOLARS AGREE THAT THEY LOSE SENTIENT AWARENESS UPON HITTING THEIR CONTAINMENT PERIOD.
THIS IS AN ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTION?
SOMEWHAT. BUT THE UNITS, AT BEST, CAN NOW ONLY TRULY BE DESCRIBED AS PRESENTIENT.
I DO NOT SEE THE IMPORT OF THIS HAIR SPLITTING.

AND YOU HAVE THAT WORD, DEMON.
NOW SHARE WITH US THIS PRECIOUS KNOWLEDGE YOU HOLD IN SUCH HIGH REGARD.
AS YOU WELL KNOW, COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS WERE ONCE ENERGY BEINGS WHICH, AFTER A LENGTHY PERIOD OF METAMORPHOSIS, BECOME ADVANCED ENTITIES.

THAT IS BECAUSE YOU MISTAKENLY BELIEVE THAT THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS HAVE LIMITS TO THEIR POWER. THAT THEY ARE NOT OMNIPOTENT LIKE YOUR DARLING INFINITY GEMS WERE--
--BACK WHEN THEY COULD BE USED IN UNISON!
BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT THE UNITS MADE CONSCIOUS CHOICES AS TO WHAT WISHES THEY WOULD AND WOULD NOT GRANT BEFORE TRANSFORMING INTO THEIR CURRENT STATE.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THEY DO NOT AFFECT SOULS.
EXACTLY. THE UNITS ARE ALL-POWERFUL BUT SIMPLY REFUSE TO BREAK CERTAIN SELF-IMPOSED TABOOS.
BUT THERE ARE WAYS AROUND THESE RESTRICTIONS, I ASSUME.
BY FORCE OF WILL.
I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE.
PRECISELY! BELIEF IS THE KEY!
TO OVER-RIDE THE RESTRICTIONS SET BY THE UNITS REQUIRES MORE WILL THAN ANY ONE OR A HUNDRED ENTITIES CAN GENERATE!
BUT BILLIONS OF SOULS BOUND TOGETHER AS ONE COULD EASILY DO THE DEED, OVERTURN THE UNIT'S GOOD INTENTIONS.
BILLIONS OF SOULS... A UNIVERSAL WILL!
SO THAT'S THE GODDESS'S GAME, IS IT?
BUT IN WHAT MANNER DOES SHE INTEND TO UTILIZE THIS SUBVERTING OF INHIBITIONS?
SOMETHING DANGEROUSLY GOOD, I IMAGINE.
TO ACT AGAINST THE GODDESS WILL REQUIRE INTELLIGENCE MORE SPECIFIC THAN "DANGEROUSLY GOOD."

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL, THANOS.
I WILL CONTINUE THIS EFFORT IF YOU WILL BE SO KIND AS TO TELEPORT ME BACK TO MY CASTLE.
VERY WELL.
MARK YOUR POSITION UPON BEAMING DOWN TO YOUR DESTINATION, WARLOCK.
TO RETURN TO THIS SHIP YOU NEED ONLY REPOSITION YOURSELF AT THE ARRIVAL POINT AND CALL MY NAME.
I SHALL RETURN SHORTLY.
DO THAT WHILE I ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS.
HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE HE PLANS TO OBTAIN THIS NEEDED INTELLIGENCE ??
WARLOCK HAS HIS WAYS.
THANOS TO HOMEBASE. DISPATCH D-666 TO DESIGNATED COORDINATES. OVER AND OUT.
D-666?
CALLING IN FOR REINFORCEMENTS?
MERELY A TOY I DESIGNED AND BUILT BACK WHEN I STILL THOUGHT FORCE OF ARMS COULD SOLVE ANY PROBLEM.
IT MAY PROVE OF SOME USE ALONG THE WAY.
IN THE MEANTIME CEASE THAT ANNOYING SHAPE CHANGING AND BE QUIET, DEMON.
I HAVE DEEP DARK THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER.


I MUST REMEMBER TO SWEEP THE CASTLE FOR BUGS ONCE THIS AFFAIR IS FINISHED WITH.
THE TITAN TRANSPORTED ME TO JUST OUTSIDE WHERE I WISHED TO GO WITHOUT ASKING FOR COORDINATES!
COINCIDENCE?
ONE CAN'T CHANCE THAT WITH THANOS.
BUT MORE PRESSING MATTERS MUST NOW BE ATTENDED TO...
ETERNITY! WE NEED ONCE AGAIN CONFER!
DO YOU HEAR ME, ETERNITY?! I BELIEVE WE STAND ON THE ABYSS OF GALACTIC PERIL!
THERE ARE DANGEROUS FORCES AT WORK IN THE UNIVERSE! WE MUST TALK!
OH!

A WORLD MADE UP OF ODD CRYSTALLINE BLOCKS?
NOT EXACTLY WHAT I EXPECTED.
THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF REALITY?
WHO KNOWS?
WHO KNOWS IF WHAT I SEE HERE ACTUALLY EVEN TRULY EXISTS?
SURELY ANYTHING AS BYZANTINE AND COSMIC AS A FACET OF MY PERSONALITY COLLECTING COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS WOULD NOT HAVE ESCAPED HIS NOTICE.
ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS NOW IS FINDING ETERNITY AND SEEING WHAT HE CAN TELL ME ABOUT THE GODDESS...
BY THE STARS!
YET HE MADE NO MENTION OF IT DURING OUR EARLIER ENCOUNTER.
...AND IF HE WILL ALLY HIMSELF WITH ME AGAINST HER.

ETERNITY AND INFINITY-- MELDED AS ONE!!

AN ASTRAL UNION OF ALL!

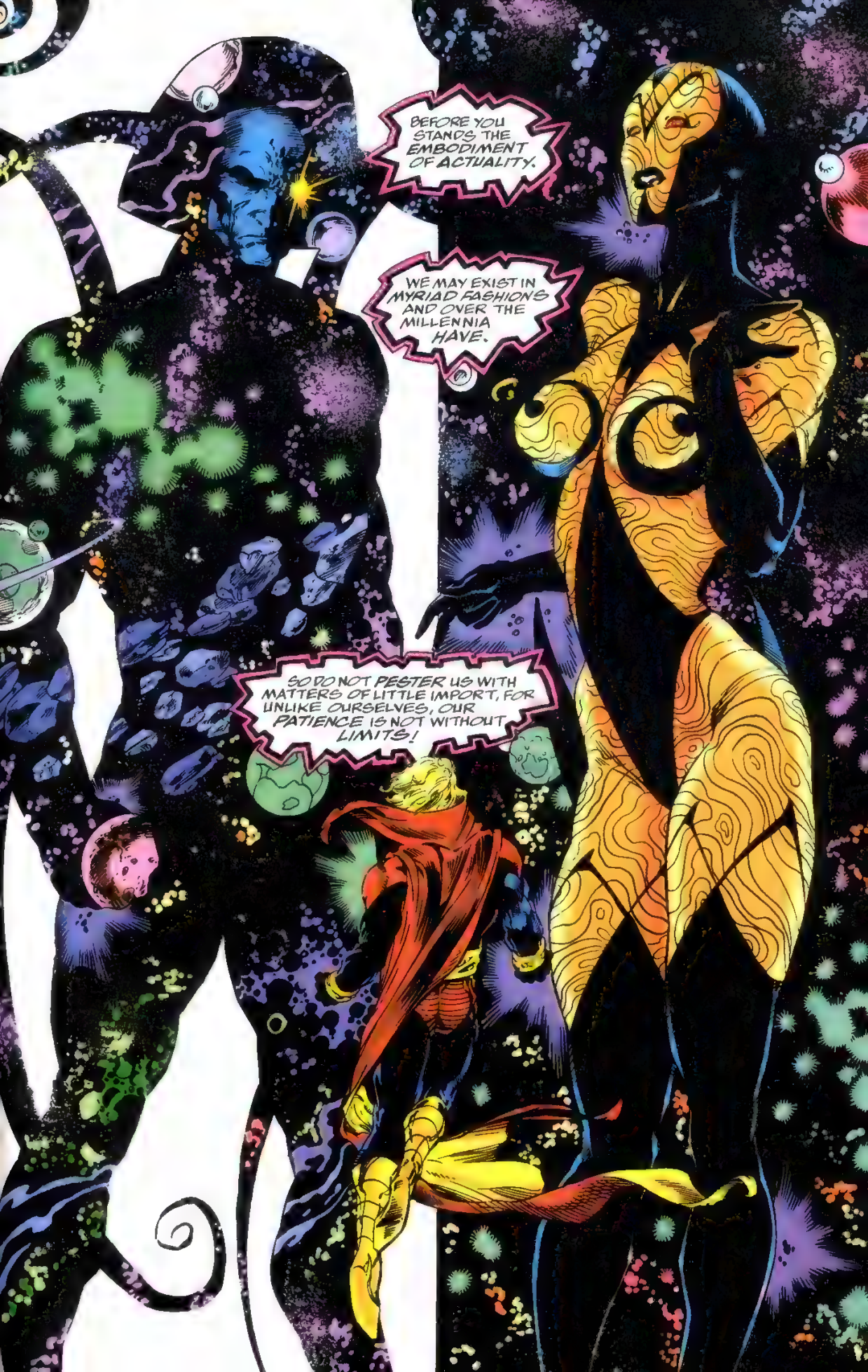
I NEVER DREAMT--!

YOU INTERRUPT, MORTAL!

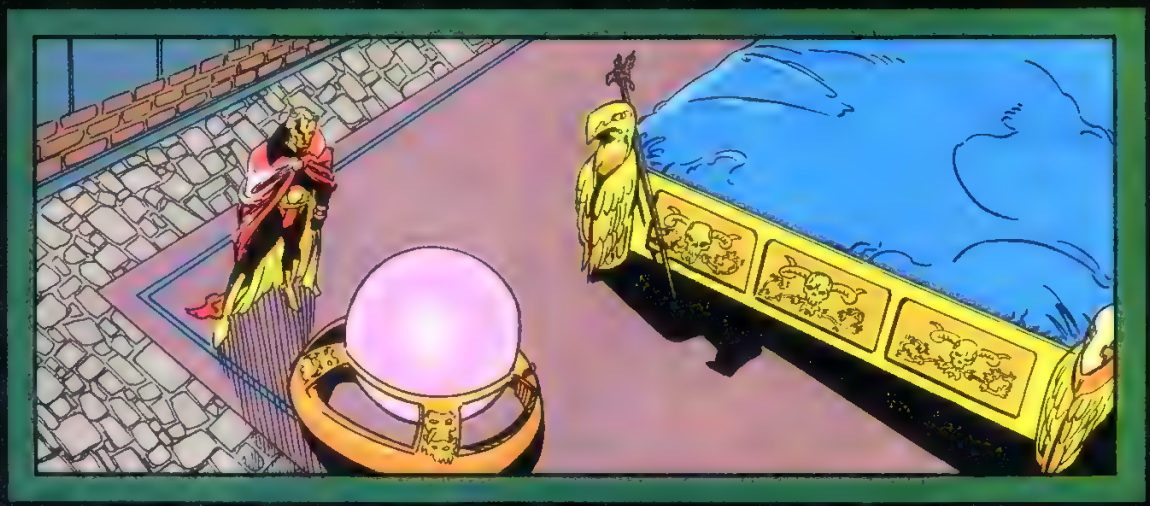
WHAT IS IT YOU DESIRE?

SPEAK YOUR PIECE QUICKLY AND BE GONE!

ETERNITY, INFINITY, I HAVE ENCOUNTERED A BEING OF GREAT POWER, THE GODDESS, WHO--
THE MACHINATIONS OF YOUR FEMININE SELF HOLD NO INTEREST TO US, ADAM WARLOCK.
YOU MAY NOW DEPART.
THEN YOU WERE AWARE OF HER EXISTENCE AND SAW NO REASON TO--
--INFORM YOU OR TO CONCERN OURSELVES OVER IT? NO.
OUR REALM IS FOREVER, AND WE CANNOT BE OVERLY PREOCCUPIED BY ANY ONE ASPECT OF OUR REALITY.
YOU ARE NOT TELLING ME THE GODDESS'S INTENTIONS ARE BENIGN, ARE YOU?
WE ARE ALL.
NO ONE PART OF THE WHOLE IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSIBLE.
NOT EVEN YOU, ADAM WARLOCK.


BEFORE YOU STANDS THE EMBODIMENT OF ACTUALITY.
WE MAY EXIST IN MYRIAD FASHIONS AND OVER THE MILLENNIA HAVE.
SO DO NOT PESTER US WITH MATTERS OF LITTLE IMPORT, FOR UNLIKE OURSELVES, OUR PATIENCE IS NOT WITHOUT LIMITS!

BE GONE!



I KNOW.
THANOS!

WELL?
I HAVE DISCERNED THE GODDESS'S PLANS.
THEN LET US BE ABOUT STYMYING HER CLEVER LITTLE SCHEMES AND PLOTS.
I SHALL HELP YOU...
IS SOMETHING AMISS?
YES, YOU!
ME?
WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE IS A PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN MYSELF AND AN ASPECT OF MYSELF.
DEMONS SHOULD HAVE NO PART IN IT.
MEPHISTO, I DO NOT WISH YOUR FOUL PRESENCE INCLUDED IN THIS LITTLE DRAMA.
BUT I CAN--
DEPART IMMEDIATELY!
YOU ORDER ME AWAY?!

ARROGANT BUFFOON!
I HAVE TAKEN JUST ABOUT ALL THE DISRESPECT I CARE TO TAKE FROM YOU!
I STAND READY TO BATTLE YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS SOUL GEM AGAIN!
PERHAPS HERE, ON A PLANE NOT MYSTIC, YOUR TRINKET WILL PROVE LESS FORMIDABLE!
MEPHISTO, BOTH ADAM AND I DESIRE YOUR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE.
WELL?

I MAKE MY EXIT TITAN, BUT I HOLD YOU TO THE TERMS OF OUR AGREEMENT.
I SHALL HONOR THEM.
NOW WE BEGIN PLANNING?
NO. THAT PART OF THE OPERATION HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.
NOW WE ACT.
CARE TO LET ME KNOW WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO?
WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?
MY SOUL GEM KNOWS WHAT MUST BE DONE.
AND WHEN IT'S ASSIGNED DUTIES ARE COMPLETED YOU TOO WILL KNOW.

NO!

AND YOU TOO WILL EVENTUALLY KNOW IF YOU JOIN US IN 2 WEEKS FOR WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #20--WHERE OUR COSMIC TALE CONTINUES AND THEN CATCH US ONE WEEK LATER IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE #4--AND THEN MEET US BACK HERE THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES #4 AND--

THE DARK MIRROR!

MARVEL COMICS
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
PUNY MORTALS! NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY LAUGH AT--
PIP KING OF THE UNIVERSE!
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DIRECT EDITION

DREAMING PERMITS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO BE QUIETLY AND SAFELY INSANE EVERY NIGHT OF OUR LIVES.
CHARLES WILLIAM DEMENT
I DID IT! I'M--
PIP, KING OF THE UNIVERSE!

JIM STARLIN--CREATOR/WRITER
ANGEL MEDINA PENCILS
BOB ALMOND INKS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM OBFALCO FOREMAN

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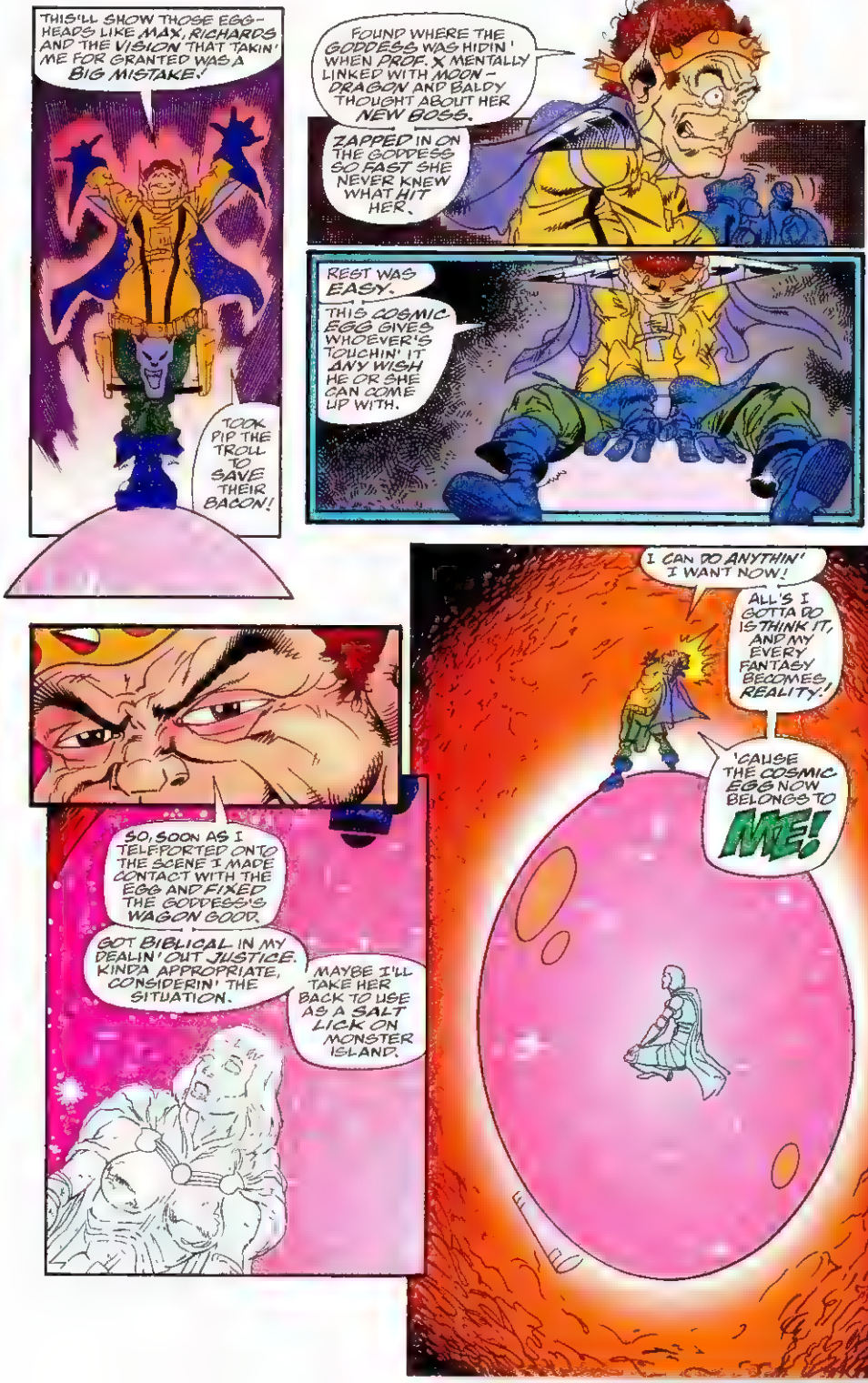
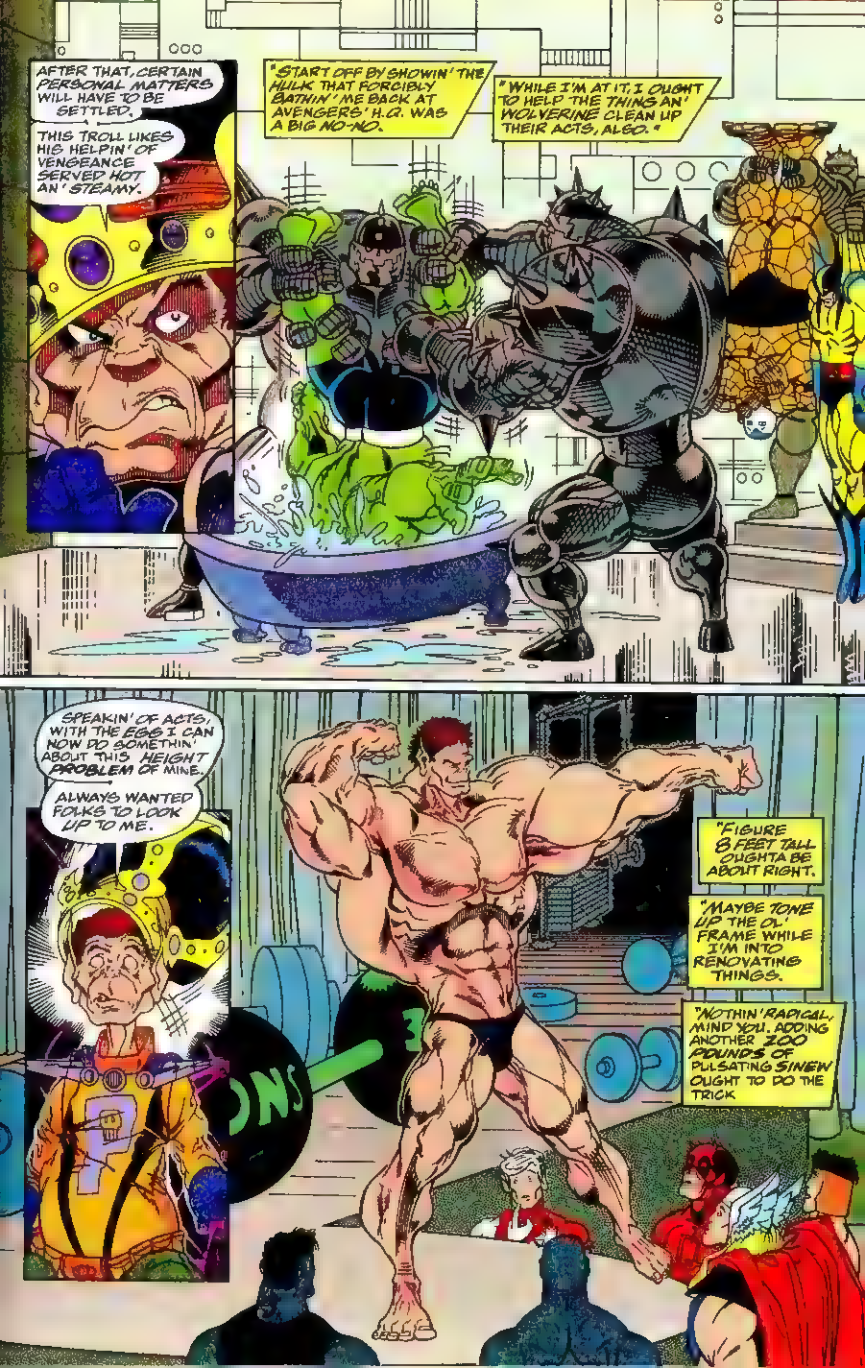

THIS'LL SHOW THOSE EGG-HEADS LIKE MAX, RICHARDS AND THE VISION THAT TAKIN' ME FOR GRANTED WAS A BIG MISTAKE!
TOOK PIP THE TROLL TO SAVE THEIR BACON!
FOUND WHERE THE GODDESS WAS HIDIN' WHEN PROF. X MENTALLY LINKED WITH MOON-DRAGON AND BALDY THOUGHT ABOUT HER NEW BOSS.
ZAPPED IN ON THE GODDESS SO FAST SHE NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HER.
REST WAS EASY.
THIS COSMIC EGG GIVES WHOEVER'S TOUCHIN' IT ANY WISH HE OR SHE CAN COME UP WITH.
I CAN DO ANYTHIN' I WANT NOW!
ALL'S I GOTTA DO IS THINK IT, AND MY EVERY FANTASY BECOMES REALITY!
'CAUSE THE COSMIC EGG NOW BELONGS TO ME!
SO, SOON AS I TELEPORTED ONTO THE SCENE I MADE CONTACT WITH THE EGG AND FIXED THE GODDESS'S WAGON GOOD.
GOT BIBLICAL IN MY DEALIN' OUT JUSTICE. KINDA APPROPRIATE, CONSIDERIN' THE SITUATION.
MAYBE I'LL TAKE HER BACK TO USE AS A SALT LICK ON MONSTER ISLAND.

I'M DEFINITELY IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT NOW.
FAR AS I SEE IT, ONLY TROUBLE IS...
...FIGURIN' OUT WHAT IT IS I REALLY WANT!
SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE SO FAR WISHIN' AND NOT GETTIN'.
MY NEW STATUS IS GOIN' TO TAKE SOME MENTAL AND ATTITUDE ADJUSTIN'.
GOIN' TO REQUIRE A BIT OF HEAVY DUTY THINKIN' AND ...IMAGINATION.
YEAH! THAT'S THE TICKET!
YES SIREEE. THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE OUGHTA HAVE A FIRST-RATE CROWN AND THRONE.
HOW ELSE ARE FOLKS GOIN' TO REALIZE I'M IN CHARGE?

BUT I CAN'T GO SQUANDERIN' THIS GREAT GIFT.
GOT TO BE CAREFUL HOW I USE IT.
"TENDIN' TO MY BASIC NEEDS SHOULD BE MY FIRST PRIORITY.
"COUPLE MOUNTAINS OF BREW OUGHT TO HOLD ME OVER FOR THE FIRST MONTH OR SO.
SHOTZ BEER
"A FEW TRUCK LOADS OF FIFTY CENT STOOGES WOULD ALSO BE IN ORDER".
WITH THE NECESSITIES OF EXISTENCE TAKEN CARE OF, I COULD THEN TURN MY ATTENTIONS TO SOME OF THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE.
CONCENTRATE ON A FEW CREATURE COMFORTS.
"I'VE CAUGHT EACH OF THEM EYEIN' ME AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.
"SURE THEY'VE TRIED TO COVER UP THEIR DESIRES WITH FLIMSY FACADES OF DISGUST AND ANNOYANCE, BUT I SEE THROUGH THEIR ACTS.
BEER NUTS
"WITH THE COSMIC EGGS, I'LL HELP 'EM SHED THEIR INHIBITIONS."


AFTER THAT, CERTAIN PERSONAL MATTERS WILL HAVE TO BE SETTLED.
THIS TROLL LIKES HIS HELPIN' OF VENGEANCE SERVED HOT AN' STEAMY.
"START OFF BY SHOWIN' THE HULK THAT FORCIBLY BATHIN' ME BACK AT AVENGERS' H.Q. WAS A BIG NO-NO.
"WHILE I'M AT IT, I OUGHT TO HELP THE THINS AN' WOLVERINE CLEAN UP THEIR ACTS, ALSO."
SPEAKIN' OF ACTS, WITH THE EGGS I CAN NOW DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THIS HEIGHT PROBLEM OF MINE.
ALWAYS WANTED FOLKS TO LOOK UP TO ME.
"FIGURE 8 FEET TALL OUGHTA BE ABOUT RIGHT.
"MAYBE TONE UP THE OL' FRAME WHILE I'M INTO RENOVATING THINGS.
"NOTHIN' RADICAL, MIND YOU. ADDING ANOTHER 200 POUNDS OF PULSATING SINEW OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.

'COURSE I'M NOT GOIN' TO BE ONE OF THOSE RULERS WHO SPEND ALL THEIR TIME LOOKIN' IN A MIRROR.

LOTS OF THINGS ABOUT THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE THAT NEED FIXIN'.

MEANWHILE, ABOARD ONE OF THE TWO AVENGERS QUINJETS CIRCLING EARTH'S SUN...

...FURTHER TROUBLE BREWS.

I TELL YOU THAT LITTLE TROLL IS GOING TO BETRAY US TO THE GODDESS!

HULK, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY PIP TELE-PORTED OFF THE SHIP!

IT COULD BE THAT HE JUST WANTED TO AVOID THE COMING BATTLE WITH THE GODDESS'S DISCIPLES.

I HEAR HE'S NOT THE BRAVEST SOUL.

BACK OFF, BRUCE.

YOU TOO, MAXAM!

OR MAYBE YOU AND THE REST OF THAT BLASTED INFINITY WATCH ARE IN LEAGUE WITH THIS SO-CALLED NEW MESSIAH!

EVEN WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE RESTORED, THE HULK IS STILL A REAL PAIN IN THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT.

I'M NOT SO SURE GREENIE'S ALL THAT FULL OF IT THIS TIME.

MEANING?

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MAXAM I JUST DON'T TRUST.

ASIDE FROM HIS AMNESIA HE STRIKES ME AS A STAND-UP GUY.

WHAT'S BOTHER-ING YOU, LOGAN?

I DON'T GET ANY SCENT OFF MAXAM.

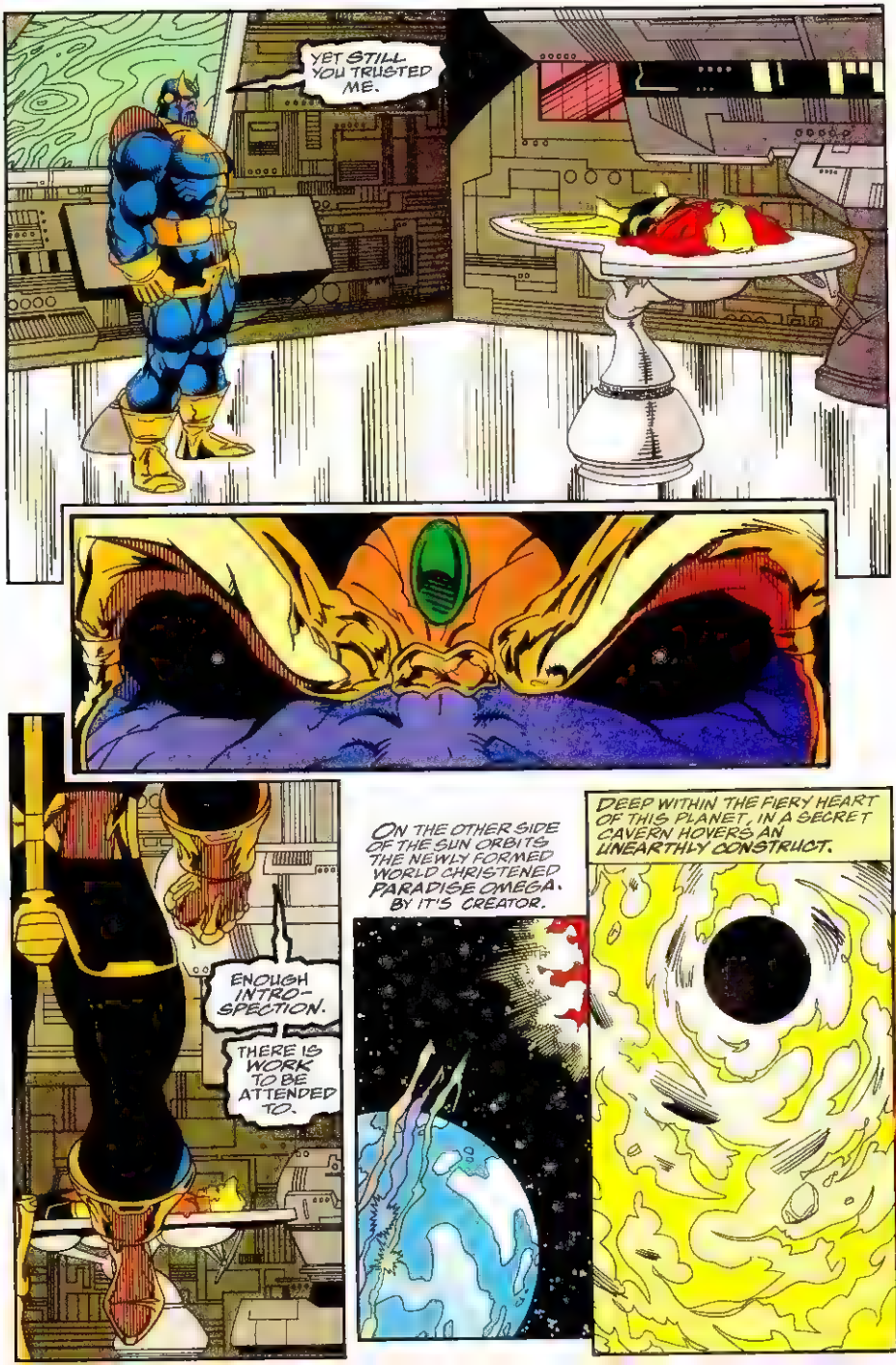
HOW CAN THAT BE?

AND NO MORE THAN A FEW THOUSAND MILES AWAY DRIFTS THANOS'S STARCRAFT...

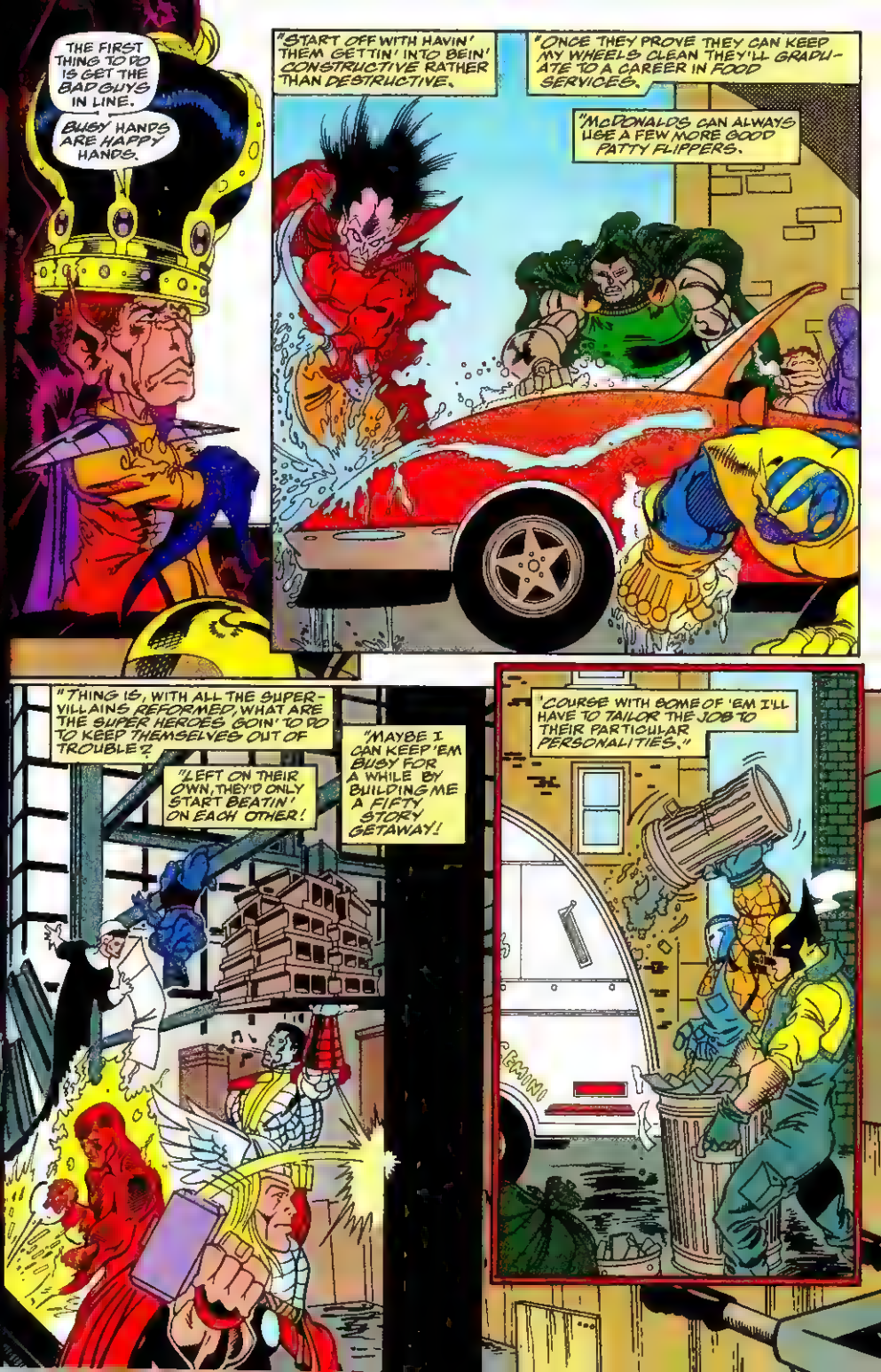
ON BOARD WITH THE TITAN IS ADAM WARLOCK.

I KNEW YOU WOULD EVENTUALLY PERCEIVE THE GODDESS'S ULTIMATE PLAN, WARLOCK.

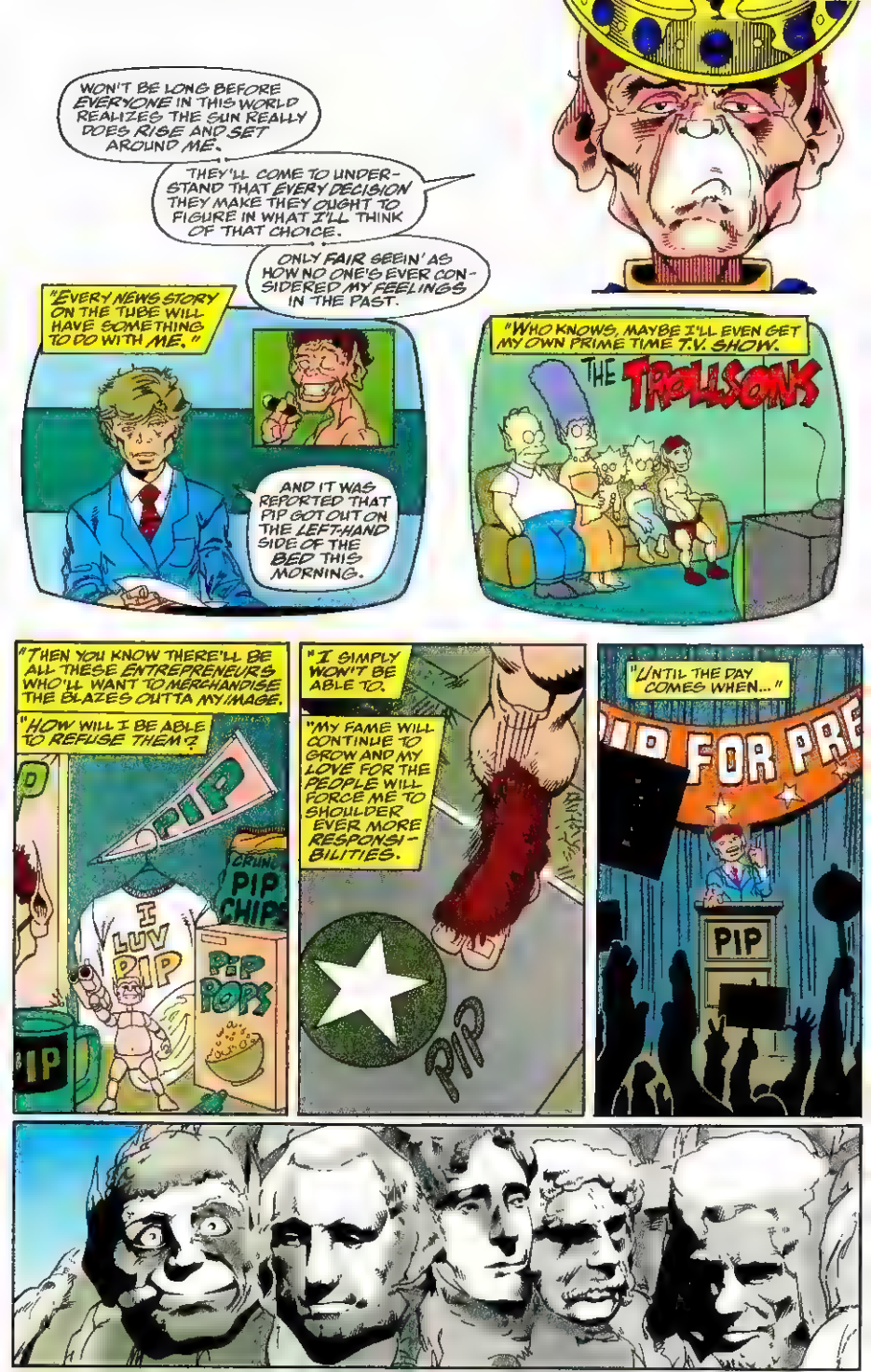
WHAT I DIDN'T FORSEE WAS YOUR FORMULATING A SCHEME TO THWART THE GODDESS'S MACHINATIONS ON YOUR OWN.
I NOW KNOW THIS DESIGN ONLY BECAUSE YOU PRESENTED ME WITH THE SOUL GEM IN ORDER FOR IT TO WREST YOUR SPIRIT FROM THE EMPTY HUSK LAYING BEFORE ME.
ALL YOUR MEMORIES ARE NOW MINE.
YOU HAVE CHARGED ME WITH THE TEMPORAL EXECUTION OF YOUR PLAN.
I AM TO BE YOUR PALADIN.
SURELY YOU REALIZE HOW RISKY A CHOICE YOU MADE.
THERE ARE ASPECTS TO THE GODDESS'S SCHEME THAT YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN I WOULD FIND..
...APPEALING.


YET STILL YOU TRUSTED ME.
ENOUGH INTRO-SPECTION.
THERE IS WORK TO BE ATTENDED TO.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUN ORBITS THE NEWLY FORMED WORLD CHRISTENED PARADISE OMEGA. BY IT'S CREATOR.
DEEP WITHIN THE FIERY HEART OF THIS PLANET, IN A SECRET CAVERN HOVERS AN UNEARTHLY CONSTRUCT.

ONCE IT WAS SANCTUARY TO A GODDESS; NOW IT HOUSES ONLY MAD DREAMS!
PIPSTER
I'LL EITHER FIX IT, OR LEVEL IT AND START OVER!
WHO'S GONNA STOP ME?
SO HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT STRAIGHTENIN' OUT THE UNI-VERSE WITHOUT SCREWIN' UP THE JOB?
SURE YA GOT TO GET RID OF CRIME, INJUSTICE, DISEASE AN' ALL THAT CRUD.
IT'S THE DETAILS OF A JOB LIKE THIS THAT CAN HANG YOU UP.
BUT I'LL GET IT ALL TOGETHER.


THE FIRST THING TO DO IS GET THE BAD GUYS IN LINE.
BUSY HANDS ARE HAPPY HANDS.
"START OFF WITH HAVIN' THEM GETTIN' INTO BEIN' CONSTRUCTIVE RATHER THAN DESTRUCTIVE.
"ONCE THEY PROVE THEY CAN KEEP MY WHEELS CLEAN THEY'LL GRADUATE TO A CAREER IN FOOD SERVICES.
"McDONALDS CAN ALWAYS USE A FEW MORE GOOD PATTY FLIPPERS.
"THING IS, WITH ALL THE SUPER-VILLAINS REFORMED, WHAT ARE THE SUPER HEROES GOIN' TO DO TO KEEP THEMSELVES OUT OF TROUBLE?
"LEFT ON THEIR OWN, THEY'D ONLY START BEATIN' ON EACH OTHER!
"MAYBE I CAN KEEP 'EM BUSY FOR A WHILE BY BUILDING ME A FIFTY STORY GETAWAY!
"COURSE WITH SOME OF 'EM I'LL HAVE TO TAILOR THE JOB TO THEIR PARTICULAR PERSONALITIES."
CRUNCH

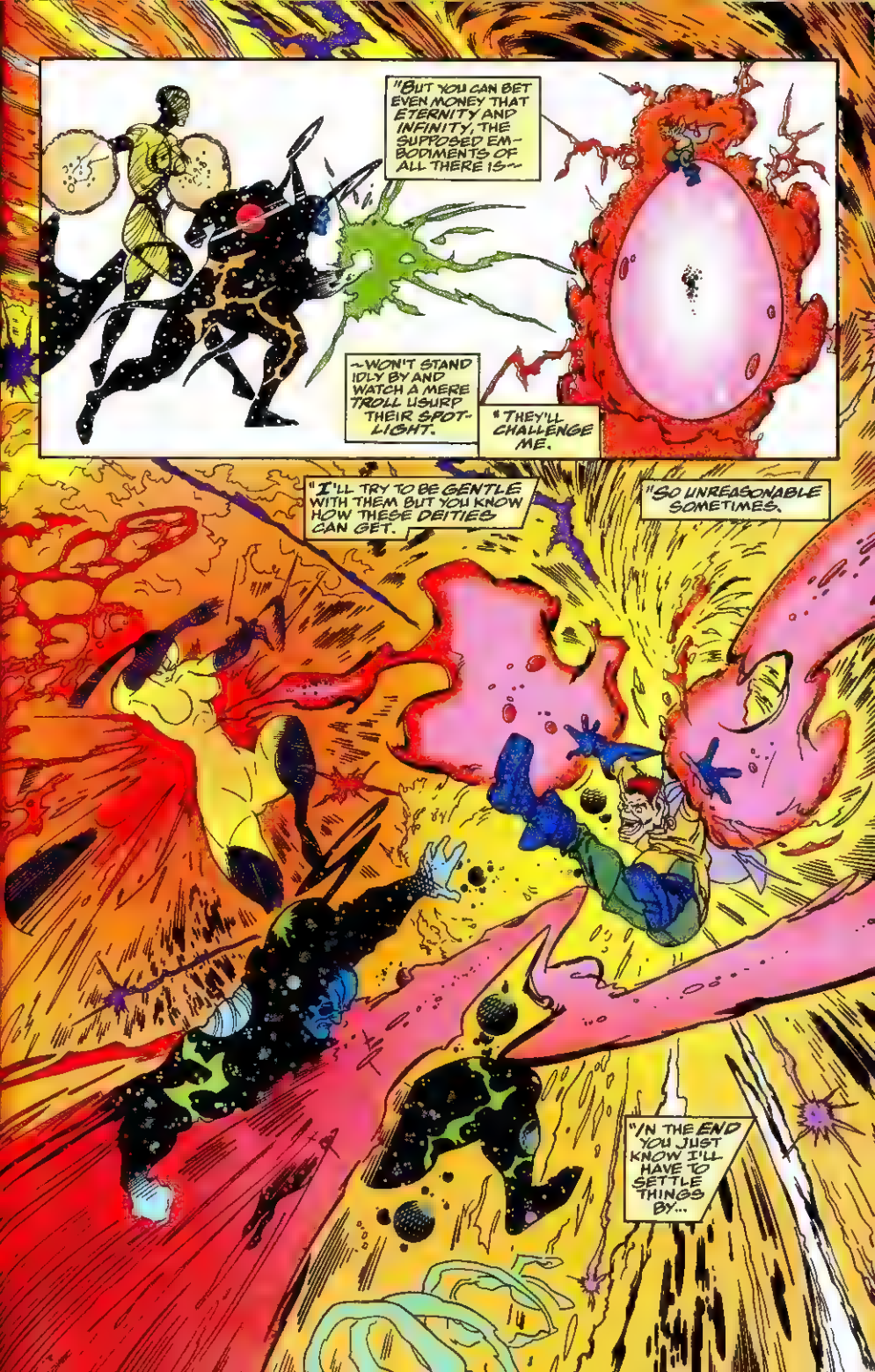
IT'LL BE A THANKLESS AND UGLY JOB WHIPPIN' THIS REALITY INTO LINE, BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT!
AND SPEAKIN OF UGLY, WHILE I'M AT IT I OUGHT TO DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT IMPROVIN' THE SPECIES AS A WHOLE.
"I'LL START WITH THE WOMEN. THEY'VE ALWAYS HAD IT THE TOUGHEST: SUFFERIN' ALL THAT DISCRIMINATION, CHAUVINISM AND OTHER SORTS OF BAD STUFF.
"NOT TO MENTION THAT A NUMBER OF 'EM ARE REAL DOGS!
"SURE, I KNOW SOME OF THE MAN-HATERS OUT THERE WON'T THANK ME FOR THE MAKEOVER.
"BUT EVENTUALLY THEY'LL COME AROUND TO MY WAY OF LOOKIN' AT THINGS.
"HOW CAN THEY AVOID IT? AFTER ALL, I'M RIGHT, AIN'T I?
"WITH THE GUYS THE PROBLEM IS A BIT DIFFERENT.
"THEY'RE ALL TOO COMPETITIVE, TOO MUCH TESTOSTERONE.
"HEARD THAT ON OPRAH SO IT'S GOT TO BE TRUE.
"SO I'LL REMEDY THAT PROBLEM WITH A LIL' GENETIC SCULPTING.
"BUT I'VE GOT TO FIGURE HAVIN' ALL THE DUDES WITH THE SAME FIGURE SOME FOLKS MIGHT FIND BORIN'.
"LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MY OWN NEW MUSCLE RIPPLIN' BOD FOR THE SAKE OF THE LADIES."


WON'T BE LONG BEFORE EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD REALIZES THE SUN REALLY DOES RISE AND SET AROUND ME.
THEY'LL COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY DECISION THEY MAKE THEY OUGHT TO FIGURE IN WHAT I'LL THINK OF THAT CHOICE.
ONLY FAIR SEEIN' AS HOW NO ONE'S EVER CONSIDERED MY FEELINGS IN THE PAST.
"EVERY NEWS STORY ON THE TUBE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME."
AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT PIP GOT OUT ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE BED THIS MORNING.
"WHO KNOWS, MAYBE I'LL EVEN GET MY OWN PRIME TIME T.V. SHOW.
THE TROLLSONS
"THEN YOU KNOW THERE'LL BE ALL THESE ENTREPRENEURS WHO'LL WANT TO MERCHANDISE THE BLAZES OUTTA MY IMAGE.
"HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO REFUSE THEM?
PIP
I LUV PIP
CRUNCH PIP CHIPS
PIP POPS
"I SIMPLY WON'T BE ABLE TO.
"MY FAME WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND MY LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE WILL FORCE ME TO SHOULDER EVER MORE RESPONSIBILITIES.
PIP
"UNTIL THE DAY COMES WHEN..."
FOR PRE
PIP

IT'S NOT A DREAM!
IT'S REAL!
I'M BACK IN...
SOUL WORLD!
HOW I'VE LONGED TO RETURN TO THIS EMERALD PARADISE, THE ONE PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE MY SPIRIT IS AT PEACE.
THIS HEAVEN I SURRENDERED IN ORDER TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM THANOS'S PAST SINS.
AND NOW ALLYING MYSELF WITH THE TITAN HAS BROUGHT ME BACK HERE.

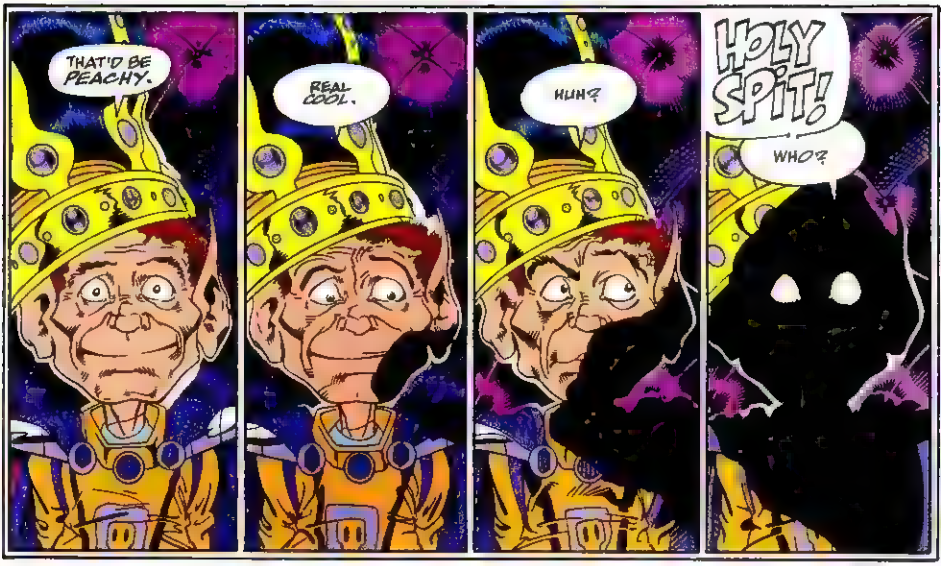
BUT NONE OF THAT IS OF ANY REAL IMPORT NOW, FOR THE MOMENT ITSELF IS ALL THAT MATTERS.
I'M HOME AND IT FEELS GRAND!
IF ONLY I COULD STAY....
ALL MY DREAMS ARE COMIN' TRUE AND THAT'S THAT!
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER I'M GOING TO HAVE CONTROL OVER MY OWN LIFE!
THERE'LL BE NO MORE BEIN' PUT DOWN BY LOUDMOUTHED JERKS!
NO SIDE OF BEEF WILL BE BIG ENOUGH TO PUSH ME AROUND!
MY DAYS OF HAVIN' SAND KICKED IN MY FACE ARE OVER!
'CAUSE NOW I GOT THE POWER AND I KNOW HOW TA USE IT!
NATURALLY, THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO'LL ENVY MY MIGHT.
IT'S TRUE!
EVEN PARANOIDS HAVE ENEMIES!

"IT'S ALWAYS THE ONES WHO ARE CLOSEST TO YOU THAT TURN ON YOU FIRST.
"IT'LL BREAK MY HEART TO HAVIN' TO DISCIPLINE THE GANG.
"BUT THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO RESPECT THEIR BETTERS.
"FORCIN' MY HAND LIKE THAT WILL, ADMITTEDLY, TURN ME INTO A DESPOT.
"BUT REST ASSURED I'LL PROVE TO BE A BENIGN TYRANT.


"BUT YOU CAN BET EVEN MONEY THAT ETERNITY AND INFINITY, THE SUPPOSED EMBODIMENTS OF ALL THERE IS--
--WON'T STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH A MERE TROLL USURP THEIR SPOTLIGHT.
"THEY'LL CHALLENGE ME.
"I'LL TRY TO BE GENTLE WITH THEM BUT YOU KNOW HOW THESE DEITIES CAN GET.
"SO UNREASONABLE SOMETIMES.
"IN THE END YOU JUST KNOW I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS BY...

...BECOMING PIP THE GOD!
"BUT IS THAT REALLY WHAT I WANT?"
NAW!
AS GOD I'D HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO STUFF LIKE GRASS GROWIN'!
ALWAYS HATED MINUTIAE.
TRUTH IS THIS TROLL DON'T REALLY WANT NO MAJOR OVER-HAULING OF HIS LIFE!
ALL I REALLY NEED TO DO IS TINKER A BIT WITH MY PRESENT REALITY.
MAKE IT A TOUCH MORE COMFY, MORE PALAT-ABLE.
NO NEED OR HANKER TO BE KING, GOD OR ANYTHIN' FANCY.
ALL I EVER REALLY WANTED WAS TO BE LIKED.
THAT'S IT!
NOW I KNOW WHAT I WANT OUT OF THIS DEAL!

PY BIRTHDA
HAPPY BIRTHDAY PIP!
NO ONE'S EVER THROWN ME A BIRTHDAY PARTY!
THAT'S MY WISH!


THAT'D BE PEACHY.
REAL COOL.
HUH?
HOLY SPIT!
WHO?

THE NAME'S--
SILHOUETTE!
AND I'VE BEEN HIDING IN THAT CANISTER BY THE WALL, ASSIGNED TO WAIT IN CASE SOME CRETIN LIKE YOU CAME ALONG!

I WOULD HAVE DISPATCHED YOU LONG AGO, BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE ALL THE NONSENSE YOU KEPT BABBLING ON ABOUT.

YOU ARE ONE TWISTED INDIVIDUAL, MR. PIP.

THE UNIVERSE WILL BE A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT YOU.

LET MY GODDESS BE AS SHE WAS.

MISTRESS?

I THANK YOU, MY CHILD. THAT WAS INDEED A NARROW ESCAPE.

NOTHING FURTHER MUST BE ALLOWED TO IMPEDE OUR SACRED LABORS.

LET THE UNIVERSE KNOW THAT IT STANDS ON THE EDGE OF...

...EPIPHANY!

THE COSMIC MYSTERY OF THE GODDESS CONTINUES TO UNFOLD NEXT WEEK IN THE INFINITY CRUSADE #4! THEN THE FOLLOWING WEEK DISCOVER FURTHER ASTRAL SECRETS IN THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES #4! AND THEN RETURN TO THE PAGES OF WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #21 TWO WEEKS LATER FOR--

DRAX VERSUS THOR

WATCHWORDS

Editor—Craig Anderson **Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust**
MARVEL COMICS GROUP—387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York 10016

Attention Correspondents. All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Watchwords,

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #16 couldn't get any better than it was, but I would have liked to have seen more of Count Abyss.

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH was one of the first comics I started collecting and I have been collecting them ever since.

Steven Fink
(Address withheld by request)

Thanks for the kind words, Steven. You can count on seeing more of Count Abyss in the future.

Dear Watchwords,

I have been a faithful reader of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH since issue #10 and since then I have scrambled to find every issue, so I basically have been with you since the beginning.

I love Jim Starlin's work. WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH has got to be one of the best titles Marvel has out (second only to WARLOCK CHRONICLES). But I have a complaint and that complaint comes in the form of Tom Grindberg. I had to reread WARLOCK #16 and #17 four times each just to figure out what was going on in the action. Bring back Angel Medina as permanent artist! I like the way Angel draws. His pictures are clear and I could understand perfectly what was going on. With Grindberg, I had to guess.

Well, thanks for your time.

Randy Wright
1006 Royalist Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Sorry you don't like Tom's work, Randy, but maybe you should check out Olav's letter. He has a different point of view.

Dear Craig,

Tom Grindberg, eh? That's the name of the new semi-regular penciler of this book, right? I, for one, feel the amazing artwork we got to see showed an amazing resemblance to the work of Mignola. It had me fooled for almost half an issue! But then I looked back at the credits, and it clearly stated Tom Grindberg as penciler.

So, that being said, I'm sure it would not come as much of a surprise that I'm totally for the idea of having both Tom and Angel Medina splitting the artwork on WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH. This book's going to be smokin' hot!

Let me finish by saying I really like the new logo.

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands
Europe

Many people feel that Tom's work resembles that of Mike Mignola. If you keep reading, Olav, you'll see that Tom is developing a style all his own.

Dear Watchwords,

I usually don't write to comic books because I didn't collect any comics until WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #1. It got me hooked. I went out and bought THE THANOS QUEST, THE INFINITY GAUNTLET, THE INFINITY WAR, then I just finished RESURRECTION. Are there any other comic books with Warlock in them?

I have a couple of questions to ask.

1. What happened to the Magus? Is he still trapped in the Soul World or does he no longer exist?

2. Is it me, or has Gamora been showing some "feelings" for Warlock?

Until Drax becomes a brain surgeon and remembers Moondragon's name, make mine Marvel!

Robert Charron
5676 Broadview #0629
Parma, OH 44134

To find out what the Magus has been up to lately, Robert just pick up a copy of WARLOCK CHRONICLES #4. You'll get an eyeful. As for Warlock and Gamora, wouldn't we all like to know!

Dear Craig and Lynaire,

I just finished reading issue #16 of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH. It was well plotted to the very end. I have come to expect this from all the Warlock titles.

I have always loved Jim Starlin's storylines for Warlock and all his extraordinary adventures. I now possess every Warlock and Thanos appearance published.

I now have one question for you. Is Thanos the guardian of the Reality Gem? I think he is because Warlock and Thanos used to be friendly comrades. Also, The Living Tribunal and Eternity made comments referring to Thanos in INFINITY WAR #6 when Thanos made a duplicate of the gem on his ship.

So, until Thanos and Moondragon become husband and wife, make mine Marvel!

Jim W. Croft
(Address withheld by request)

The wait to find out who the holder of the Reality Gem is over, Jim. Read WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2 for the answer.

Dear Watchwords,

I really enjoy WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH. I think that Adam's choices for the Infinity Gems were great.

According to the premiere of Count Abyss in issue #16, it looks like Adam and his crew are going to have some trouble. The fact that Count Abyss isn't affected by the Gem's power makes me look forward to a great battle.

Chris Cunningham
11 Huntington Pl.
Bonaire, GA 31005

Count Abyss's immunity to the Soul Gem is a strange twist, Chris. We can't wait to see how this will affect the Watch.

NEXT ISSUE: This is the big one! Now, we've presented some pretty powerful battles in these pages before, but nothing to quite prepare you for this! This one will grab you by the hair and smash your face into the wall! Make an appointment with your doctor and get ready for...Drax vs. Thor! See you in thirty.

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THE METEOR MAN
MARLA GIBBS
EDDIE GRIFFIN
ROBERT GUILLAUME
JAMES EARL JONES
BILL COSBY
ANOTHER BAD CREATION
BIG DADDY KANE
SINBAD
LUTHER VANDROSS
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ROBERT TOWNSEND
ROBERT TOWNSEND "THE METEOR MAN" MARLA GIBBS EDDIE GRIFFIN ROBERT GUILLAUME JAMES EARL JONES BILL COSBY ANOTHER BAD CREATION LUTHER VANDROSS SINBAD
HANGNEY BY NATURE CYPRESS HILL BIG DADDY KANE INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC CLIFF EIDELMAN LORY GUILLETT ADAM BERNARDI JOHN A. ALONZO, A.S.C.
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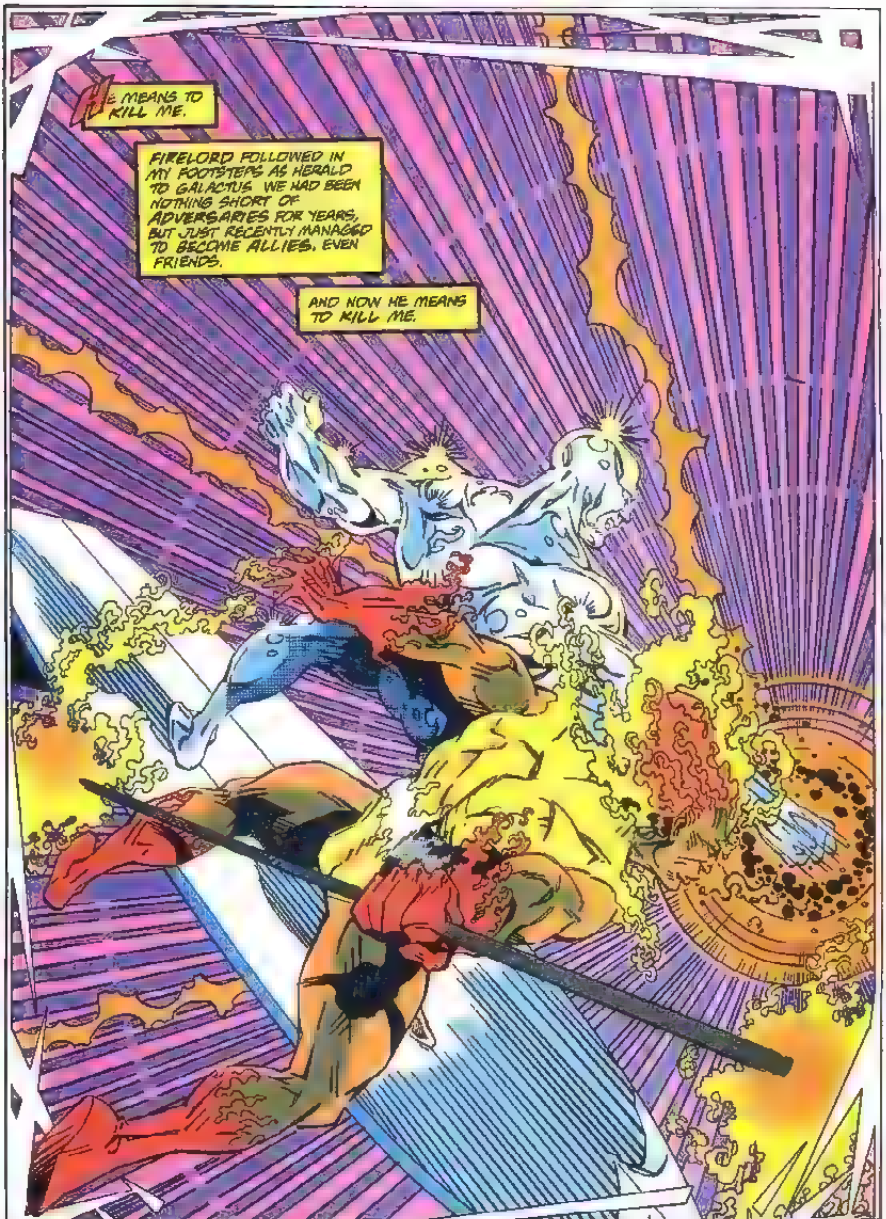
HE MEANS TO KILL ME.
FIRELORD FOLLOWED IN MY FOOTSTEPS AS HERALD TO GALACTUS. WE HAD BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF ADVERSARIES FOR YEARS, BUT JUST RECENTLY MANAGED TO BECOME ALLIES, EVEN FRIENDS.
AND NOW HE MEANS TO KILL ME.

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BLINDING
FIRELORD IS, OF COURSE, BLAMELESS. HE HAS FALLEN UNDER THE SPELL OF THE GODDESS, AND BLINDLY, FERVENTLY FOLLOWS HER DICTATES.
UNTIL A SHORT TIME AGO, I TOO WAS UNDER HER SWAY BUT I THREW OFF THAT YOKE WHEN SHE COMMANDED I TAKE PART IN AN ASSAULT AGAINST EARTH'S GATHERED HEROES.
I HAVE BEEN BRANDED A BLASPHEMER BECAUSE I FINALLY SEE HER FOR THE COLD, MANIPULATING CREATURE SHE IS. NOW, FIRELORD IS CHARGED WITH MY DESTRUCTION.

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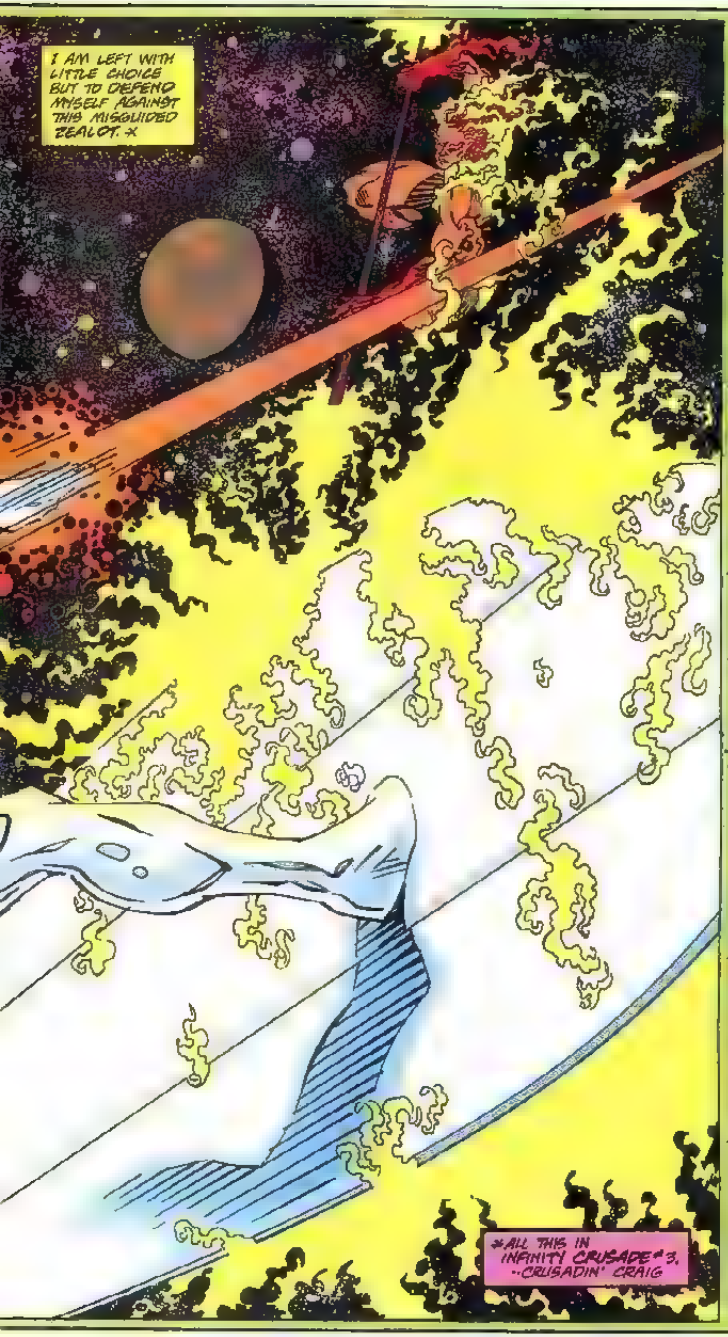
I AM LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND MYSELF AGAINST THIS MISGUIDED ZEALOT. -X
*ALL THIS IN INFINITY CRUSADE #3. --CRUSADIN' CRAIG

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I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM FIRELORD...
...BUT I CANNOT ALLOW THIS BATTLE TO BE PROLONGED
I MUST WARN EARTH'S HEROES OF THE IMPENDING ATTACK. THOSE WHO ARE CONVERTED TO THE GODDESS'S CAUSE WILL SHOW THEM NO MERCY.
UNFORTUNATELY I CAN AFFORD LITTLE OF IT MYSELF

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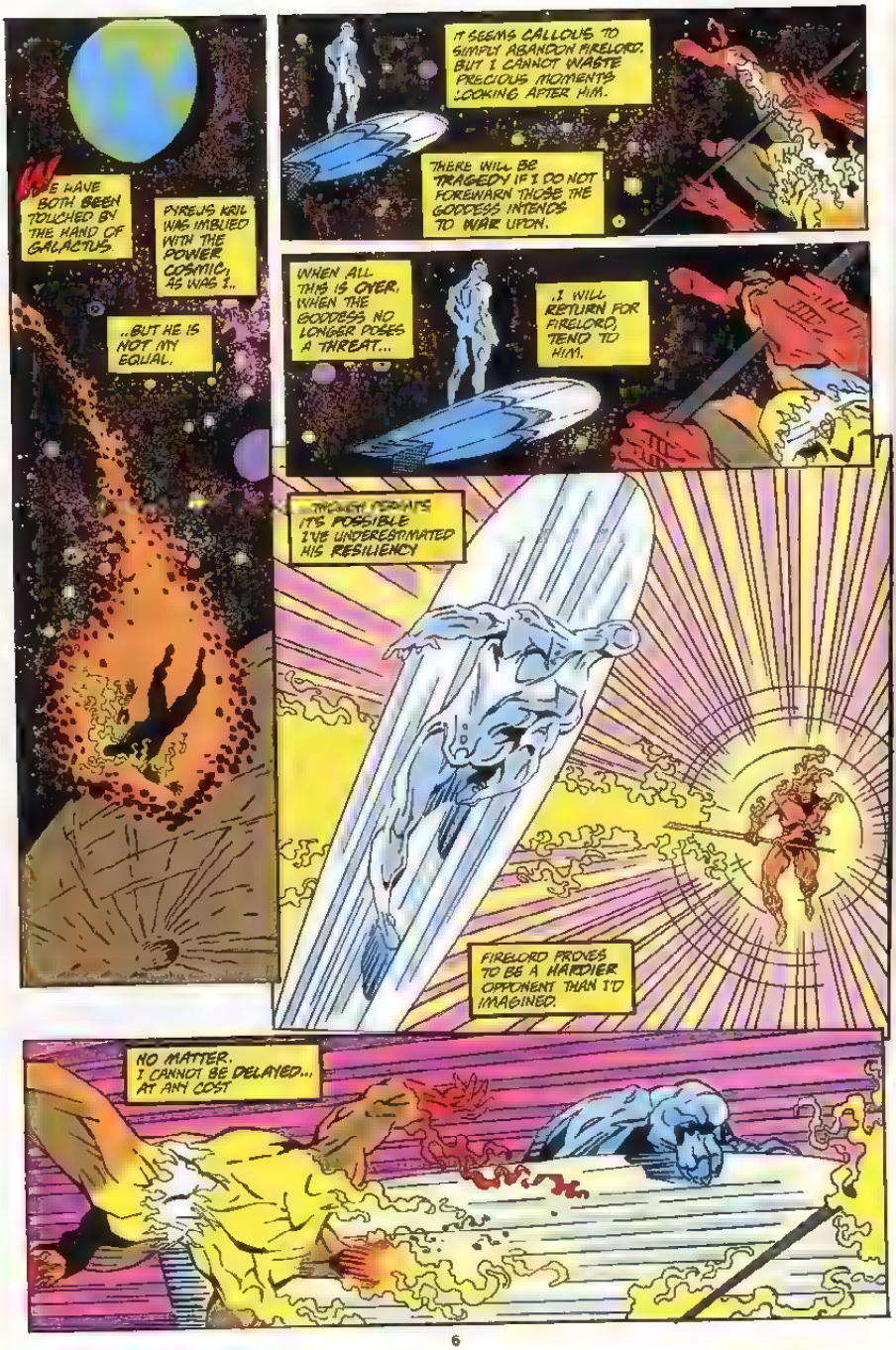
WE HAVE BOTH BEEN TOUCHED BY THE HAND OF GALACTUS.
FIREJS KRIL WAS IMBUED WITH THE POWER COSMIC, AS WAS I..
..BUT HE IS NOT MY EQUAL.
IT SEEMS CALLOUS TO SIMPLY ABANDON FIRELORD. BUT I CANNOT WASTE PRECIOUS MOMENTS LOOKING AFTER HIM.
THERE WILL BE TRAGEDY IF I DO NOT FOREWARN THOSE THE GODDESS INTENDS TO WAR UPON.
WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, WHEN THE GODDESS NO LONGER POSES A THREAT...
..I WILL RETURN FOR FIRELORD, TEND TO HIM.
THOUGH PERHAPS IT'S POSSIBLE I'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIS RESILIENCY
FIRELORD PROVES TO BE A HARDIER OPPONENT THAN I'D IMAGINED.
NO MATTER. I CANNOT BE DELAYED... AT ANY COST

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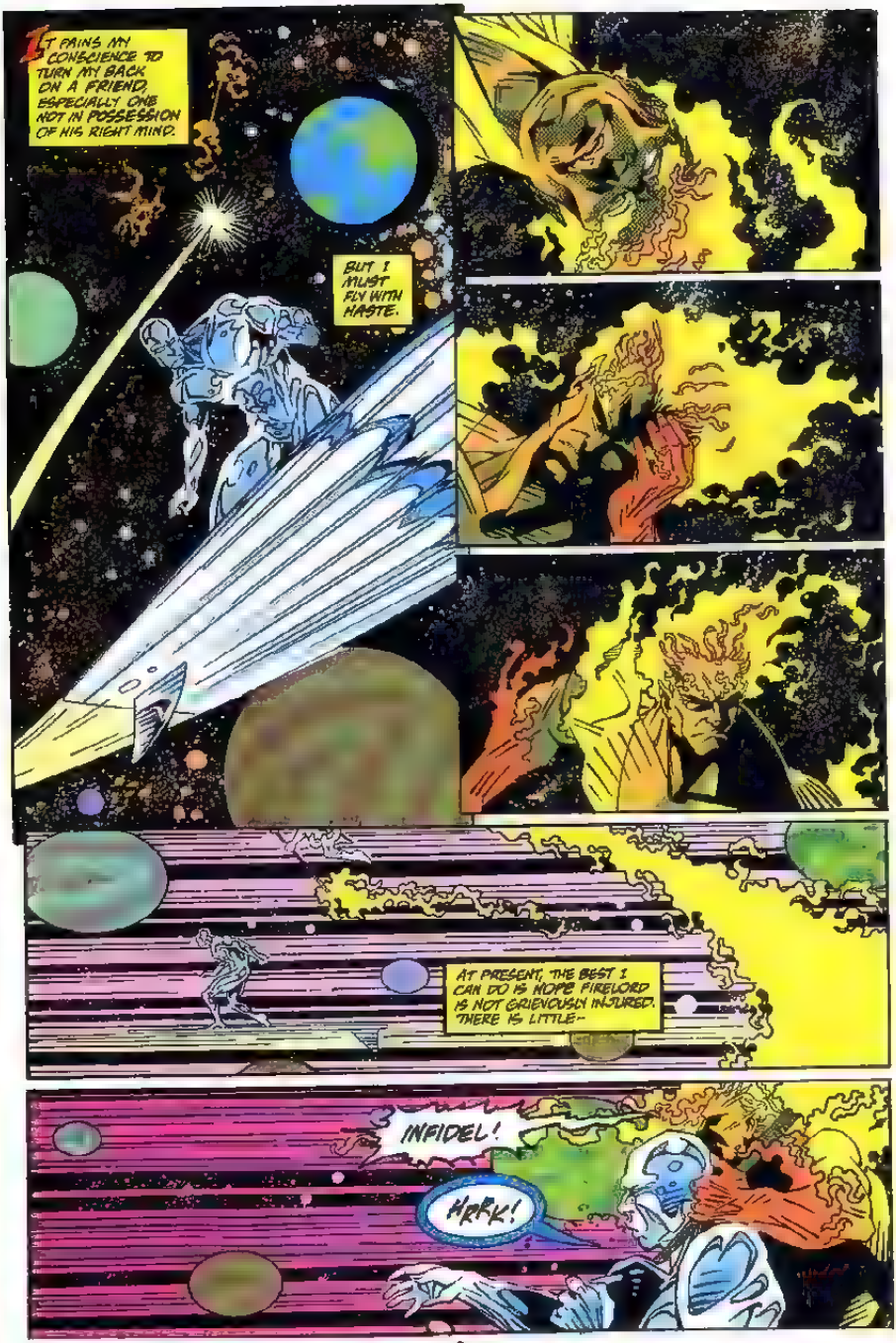
IT PAINS MY CONSCIENCE TO TURN MY BACK ON A FRIEND, ESPECIALLY ONE NOT IN POSSESSION OF HIS RIGHT MIND.
BUT I MUST FLY WITH HASTE.
AT PRESENT, THE BEST I CAN DO IS HOPE FIRELORD IS NOT GRIEVOUSLY INJURED. THERE IS LITTLE--
INFIDEL!
HRRK!

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I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS FOOLISHNESS!
LEAVE ME, FIRELORD! MY PATIENCE FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE HAS REACHED ITS END.
IT'S THE GODDESS'S PATIENCE WITH YOU THAT HAS ENDED!
SHE WELCOMED YOU TO HER FLOCK, EMBRACED YOU, AND NOW YOU SPURN HER.
YOU SEEK TO HELP THOSE WHO MOVE AGAINST HER.
THE GODDESS'S MERCY AND LOVE ARE INFINITE...
..BUT NOT FOR A HERETIC!
SHE BEWITCHED ME, FIRELORD, JUST AS SHE DID YOU.
BUT I FREED MYSELF OF HER CONTROL WHEN I REALIZED SHE CRAVES UTTER DOMINION OVER ALL THAT IS.
ANYONE WITH SUCH AIMS, NO MATTER HOW RIGHTEOUS, IS DESTINED TO BE A DESPOT.
THE GODDESS PROMISES PEACE EVERLASTING. HER WAY IS THE WAY TO PARADISE, AND I WILL NOT STRAY FROM HER PATH.
I HAVE PLEDGED EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING TO THE CRUSADE. NOTHING WILL BAR ITS WAY!...

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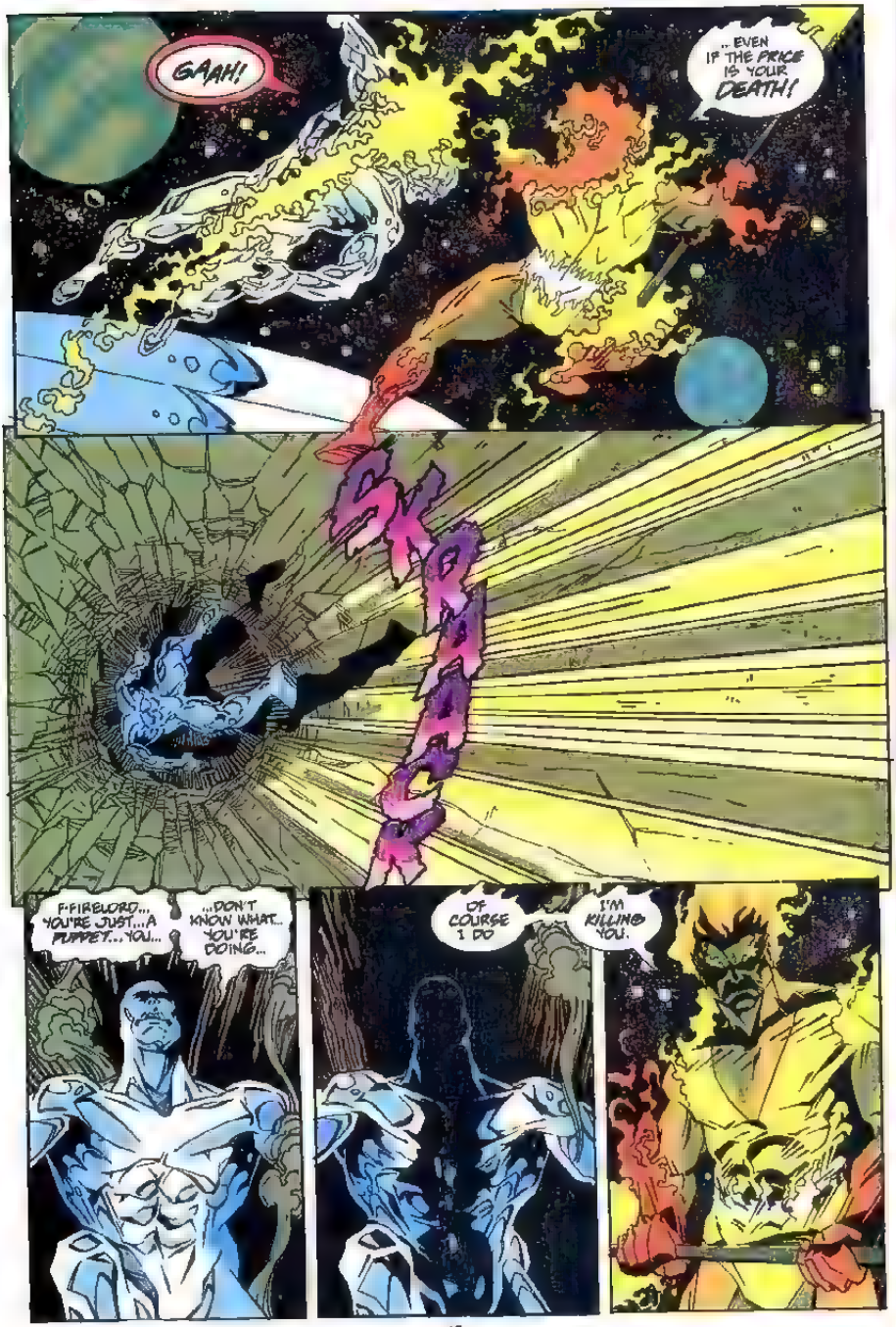

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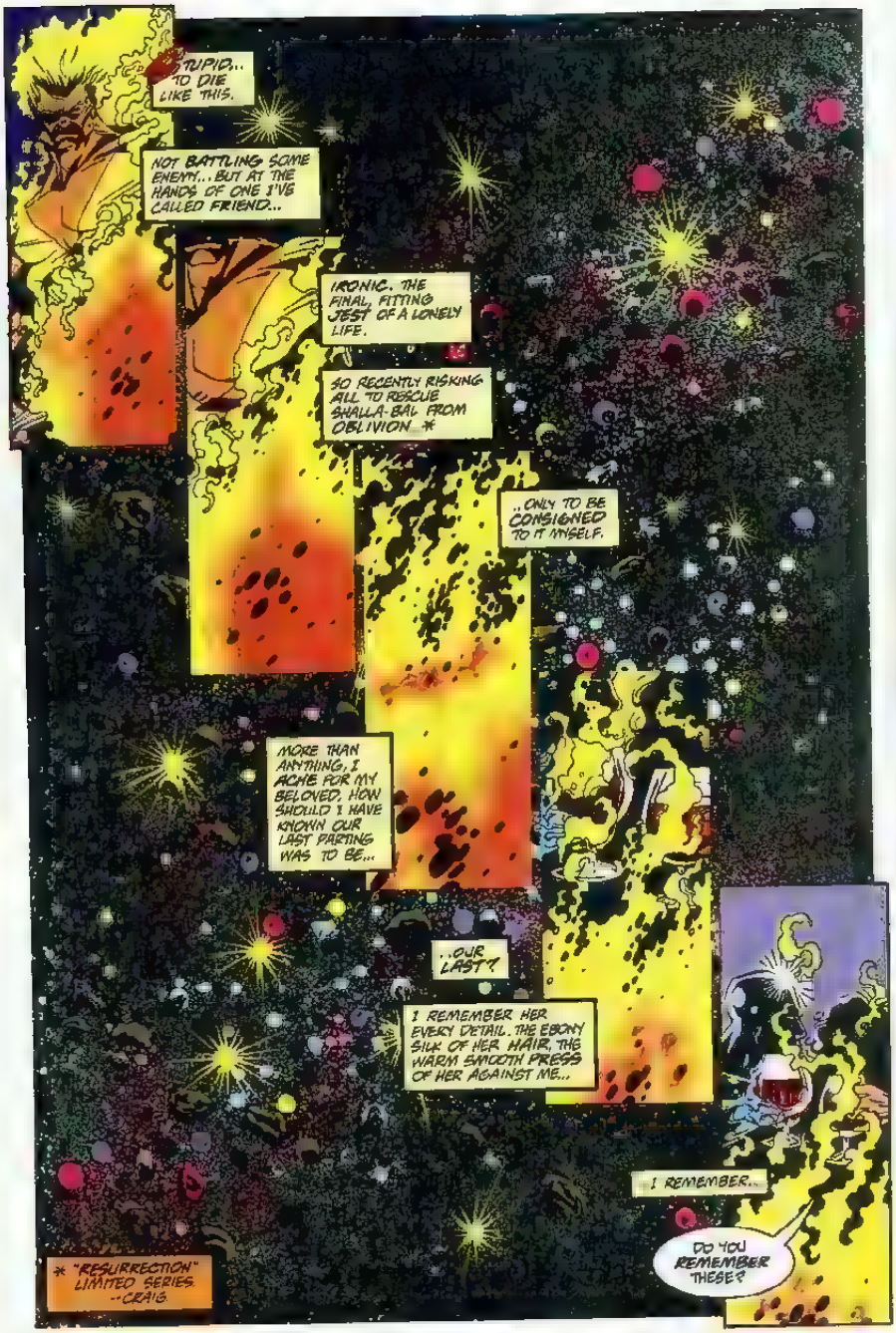
STUPID... TO DIE LIKE THIS.
NOT BATTLING SOME ENEMY... BUT AT THE HANDS OF ONE I'VE CALLED FRIEND...
IRONIC. THE FINAL, FITTING JEST OF A LONELY LIFE.
SO RECENTLY RISKING ALL TO RESCUE SHALLA-BAL FROM OBLIVION...*
..ONLY TO BE CONSIGNED TO IT MYSELF.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, I ACHE FOR MY BELOVED. HOW SHOULD I HAVE KNOWN OUR LAST PARTING WAS TO BE...
..OUR LAST?
I REMEMBER HER EVERY DETAIL. THE EBONY SILK OF HER HAIR, THE WARM SMOOTH PRESS OF HER AGAINST ME...
I REMEMBER...
DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?
* "RESURRECTION" LIMITED SERIES. --CRAIG.

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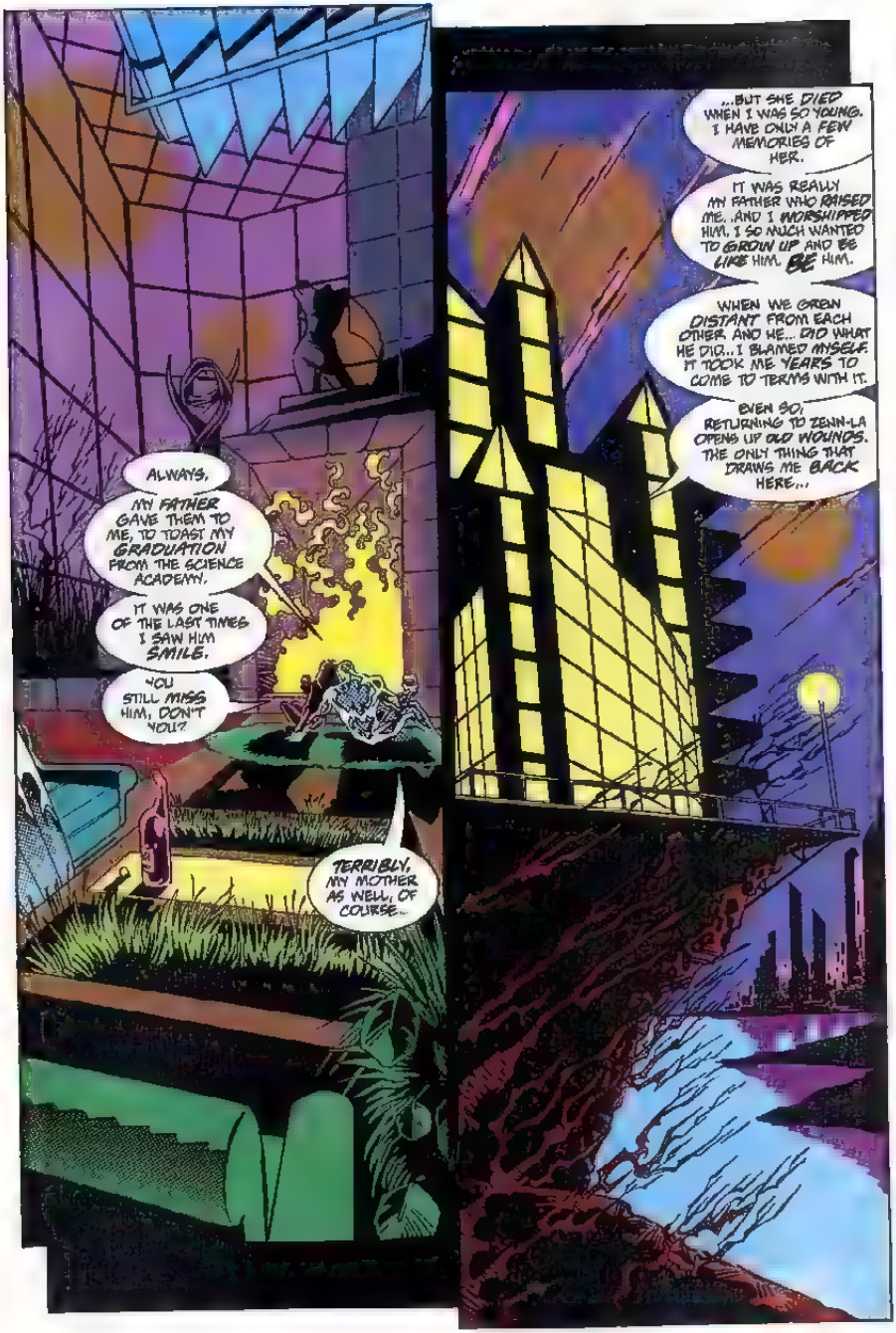
ALWAYS.
MY FATHER GAVE THEM TO ME, TO TOAST MY GRADUATION FROM THE SCIENCE ACADEMY.
IT WAS ONE OF THE LAST TIMES I SAW HIM SMILE.
YOU STILL MISS HIM, DON'T YOU?
TERRIBLY. MY MOTHER AS WELL, OF COURSE...
...BUT SHE DIED WHEN I WAS SO YOUNG. I HAVE ONLY A FEW MEMORIES OF HER.
IT WAS REALLY MY FATHER WHO RAISED ME. AND I WORSHIPPED HIM. I SO MUCH WANTED TO GROW UP AND BE LIKE HIM. BE HIM.
WHEN WE GREW DISTANT FROM EACH OTHER AND HE... DID WHAT HE DID... I BLAMED MYSELF. IT TOOK ME YEARS TO COME TO TERMS WITH IT.
EVEN SO, RETURNING TO ZENN-LA OPENS UP OLD WOUNDS. THE ONLY THING THAT DRAWS ME BACK HERE...

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...IS YOU.
I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER.*
THE GREAT ONE, MEPHISTO, THE KREE AND THE SKRULLS-- THERE ARE TIMES I BELIEVE THE STARS THEMSELVES CONSPIRE TO SEPARATE US.
WE'VE MET EVERY CHALLENGE TO OUR LOVE, NORRIN. EVEN DEATH.
AND STILL WE ARE APART.
BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE, THE RESPONSIBILITIES WE'VE ACCEPTED.
EVEN IF YOU COULD GIVE UP PLAYING THE HERO, EVEN IF ALL THE OTHER OBSTACLES WERE OUT OF THE WAY...
...MY DUTIES AS ZENN-LA'S EMPRESS WOULD KEEP US FROM ONE ANOTHER
* "HOMECOMING" GRAPHIC NOVEL. --CRAIG

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I KNOW, IT'S A HARSH TRUTH... BUT WHAT CHOICE IS THERE? WE SHALL ENDURE, AS WE ALWAYS HAVE.
I TRUST OUR WORLD FARES WELL, THE PEOPLE [redacted] UNDER YOUR RULE?
AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM OUR PLEASURE-ADDICTED SOCIETY.
...DID YOU?
SOMETIMES I FEEL I'M NOT GOVERNING PEOPLE AS MUCH AS MINDING SPOILED CHILDREN.
YOUR FATHER WAS RIGHT, NORRIN. THE SCIENCE WE ELEVATED ABOVE ALL ELSE HAS MADE US SOFT.
WE'RE SO DEPENDENT ON TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE NO STRENGTH OF OUR OWN. WE'VE LOST THE WILL TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES
YOUR FATHER SAID OUR SPIRIT HAD BEEN ROBBED FROM US. NOT REALLY. WE GAVE IT AWAY. WE--
SORRY, I GET CARRIED AWAY. YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT MATTERS OF STATE, OR THE ILLS OF SOCIETY...

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HOW TRUE.
IF THIS, THEN, MUST BE OUR LOT--TO STEAL A FEW MOMENTS FOR OURSELVES WHEN FATE ALLOWS--
--WE WILL MAKE THE MOST OF THEM.
NO.
BUT I DON'T MIND LISTENING TO YOU, IF THAT'S WHAT--
WE'VE TALKED ENOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?
TOO OFTEN WE BOTH FORGET HOW PRECIOUS OUR TIME TOGETHER IS.
I LOVE YOU, NORRIN RADD
AND I YOU, SHALLA-BAL.
AS LONG AS I MIGHT LIVE...

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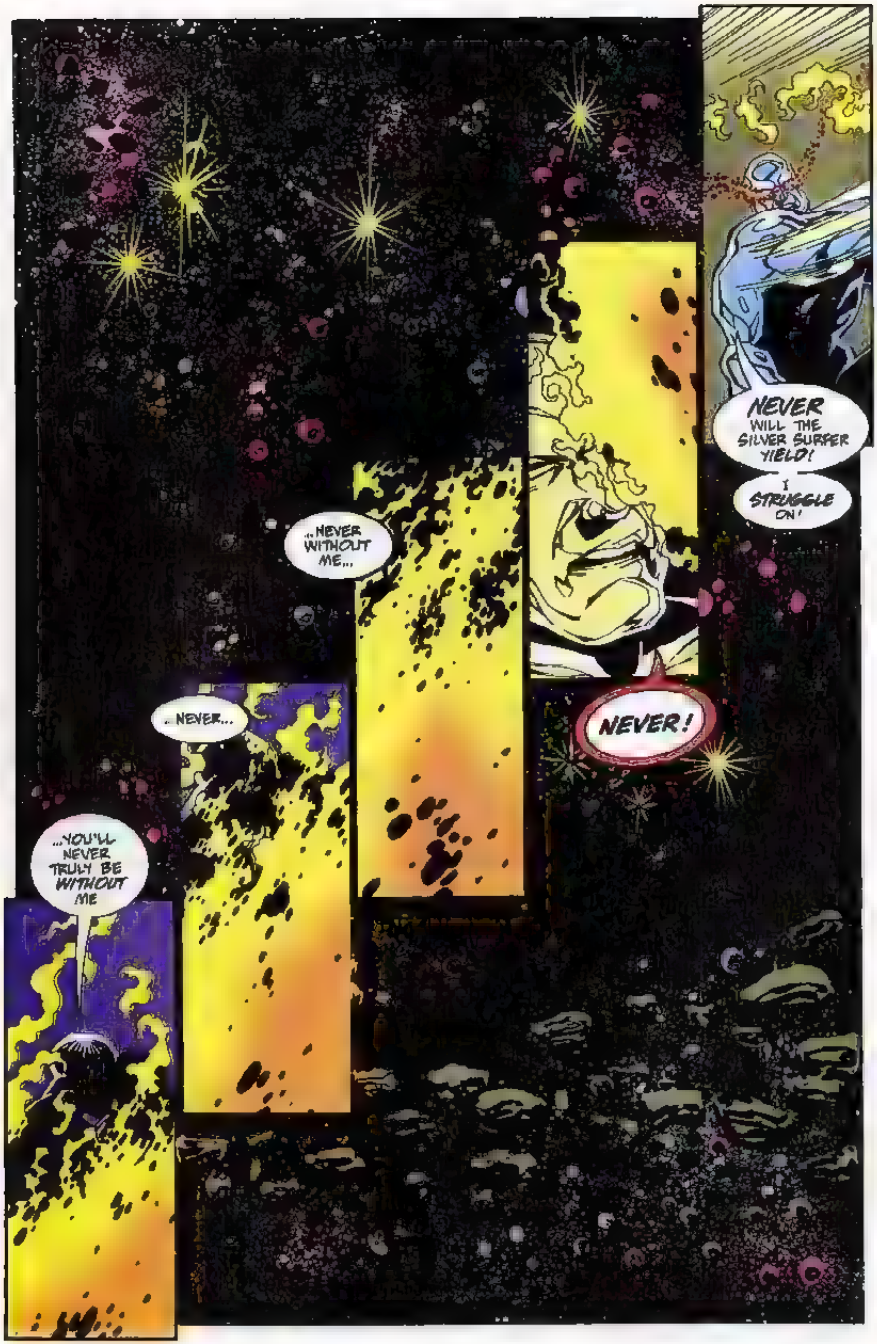

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LIST EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, 1993.
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I WOULD BE FINISHED WITH THIS IDIOCY, FIRELORD!
IF YOU WILL NOT ALLOW MY DEPARTURE, SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR DECISION.
TO ME, MY BOARD!
I GO AROUND YOU OR THROUGH YOU, BROTHER HERALD, I CARE NOT WHICH.

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I GIVE YOU A FINAL CHANCE TO SEE REASON AND JOIN ME.
PYREUS KRIL, YOUR GOALS MAY BE NOBLE, BUT YOUR METHODS ARE WAYWARD.
YOUR MIND HAS BEEN CLOUDED BY AN OPPRESSIVE MISTRESS WHO LEADS YOU ASTRAY.
COME TO YOUR SENSES...
...AND RID YOURSELF OF THE GODDESS'S INFLUENCE!

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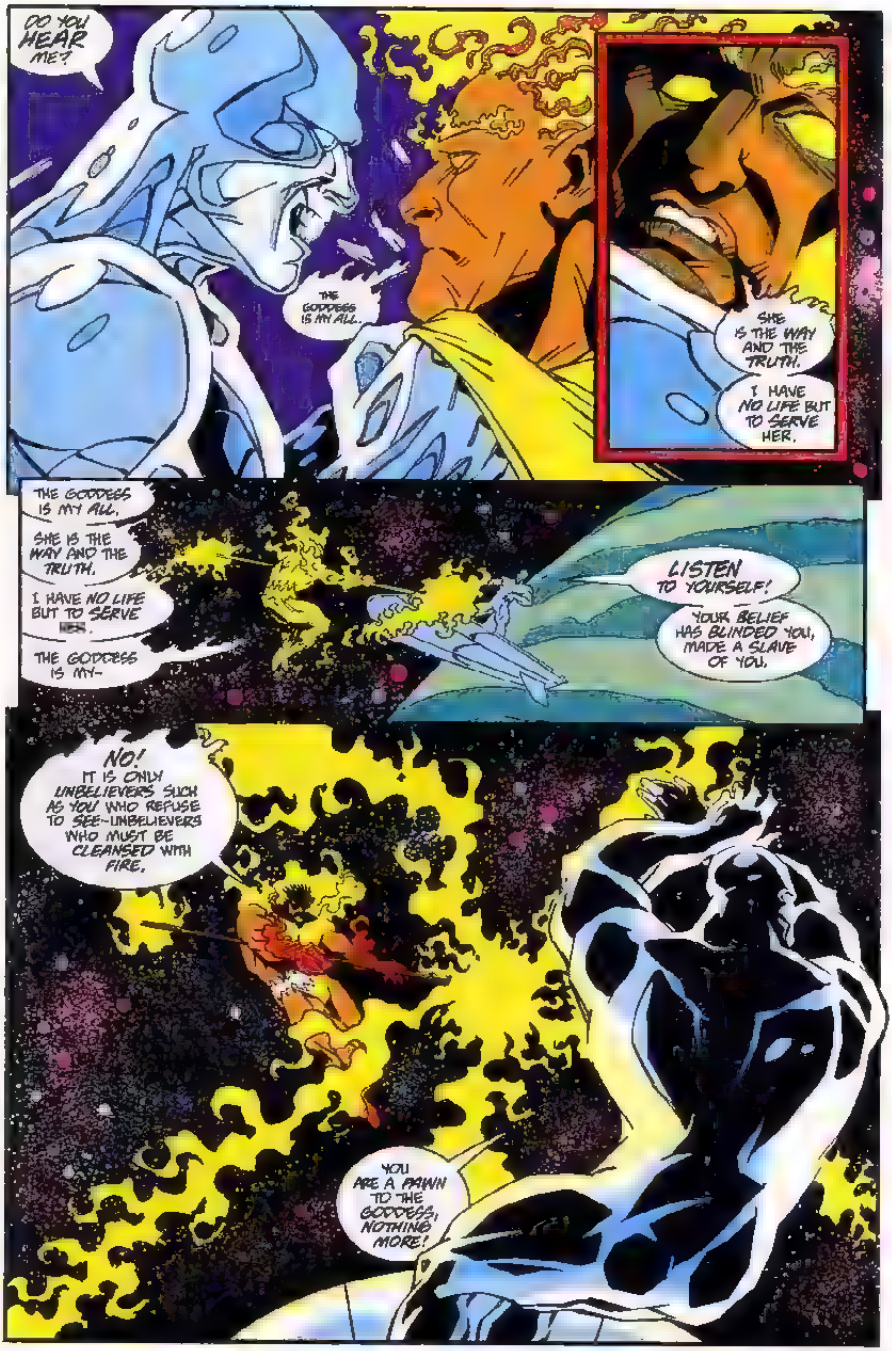
DO YOU HEAR ME?
THE GODDESS IS MY ALL.
SHE IS THE WAY AND THE TRUTH.
I HAVE NO LIFE BUT TO SERVE HER.
THE GODDESS IS MY ALL.
SHE IS THE WAY AND THE TRUTH.
I HAVE NO LIFE BUT TO SERVE HER.
THE GODDESS IS MY-
LISTEN TO YOURSELF!
YOUR BELIEF HAS BLINDED YOU, MADE A SLAVE OF YOU.
NO! IT IS ONLY UNBELIEVERS SUCH AS YOU WHO REFUSE TO SEE--UNBELIEVERS WHO MUST BE CLEANSED WITH FIRE.
YOU ARE A PAWN TO THE GODDESS, NOTHING MORE!

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

MORT'S RETORT

Ever since I became an editor at Marvel, many people wonder what the heck I do here. Our fearless leader, Titanic Tom DeFalco, designated me "Rogue Editor" (no, I'm not doing a solo book of the X character)! What I'm doing here is a big secret for now ... but I'll tell you what I'm doing in my spare time at Marvel!

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS: This title sure gets odd reactions! This is an illustrated trade paperback in the Marvel-Thomas Nelson series, proving Christian comics aren't just for Christians anymore! It's an adaptation of C.S. Lewis's classic, supposedly written by a demon, for demons! You must chock it out!

BIKER MICE FROM MARS: Sound nutty? You bet! Wait until you see this new TV series from Marvel Productions! Creator **Rick Ungar** wants our comic to be more hard core than the TV show! To help kick off our series, he and TV story editor **Bob Forward** have written the first three issues! **Ruriik** (DARKHOLD) **Tyler** provides some rollickin' art! The first issue is out in September, along with the TV show.

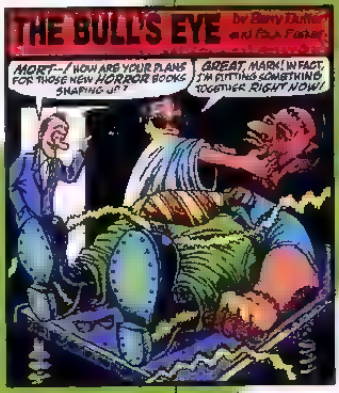
HORROR REPRINTS: Since hitting Marvel, I've been pining to do some horror comics, so we're gonna test the waters with some intense reprints from the Marvel vaults!

PHILLIP MARLOWE: I'm overseeing a great series based on Raymond Chandler's original stories adapted by Byron Preiss Visual Studios. The artwork and storytelling is ground-breaking, while sincere to the the source material!

I'm also fooling around with a few licensed projects involving some stuff that'll not only appeal to you, the comics fan, but to non-comics readers! Yeah, that's just in my spare time. The real reason I got hired at Marvel is even better! Oops, I'm running out of space! I'll have to tell you the rest next time I get a chance to yap in the ol' bullpen!

Beast Regards,

Mort Todd


THE BULL'S EYE by Barry Dutter and Rick Parker
MORT--! HOW ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THOSE NEW HORROR BOOKS SHAPING UP?
GREAT, MARK! IN FACT, I'M PITCHING SOMETHING TOGETHER RIGHT NOW!

Welcome to our first ever Bullpen Bulletins letters page! Because absolutely nothing interesting happened this week, we thought it would be as good a time as any to skinny-dip into the ol' mail-bag.

Dear Bullpen,

I find the current incarnation of the Bullpen Page much more sarcastic than the old one. It has the same irreverent tone as *Spy Magazine*. Why is this?

Dale Ladelle, Potteville, AZ

We like to think that, like our comics, the Bullpen Page now has the attitude of the nineties!

Dear BP,

Who is stronger, Hulk or Superman?

Bob Forester, Crabapple Cove, ME

Uh, we're not going to answer that question. We're trying for an intelligent exchange of ideas here.

Dear BPP,

Could Silver Surfer take Wolverine?

Len Tamington, Fort Wayne, IN

Sorry, Len, but we promised not to answer any of those questions this time around. Next!

Dear Bulldogs,

Some say super hero comics are nothing more than adolescent male power fantasies. Others feel super heroes satisfy a basic human need for myths. In essence, super heroes are the modern equivalents of the gods of old. My question for you, then, is this: Could Sub-Mariner take Iron Man?

Sue Donner, Davenport, IA

You pose a valid question, Sue, one deserving of a serious answer! On land, Iron Man. In water, Sub-Mariner.

Dear BPP,

I love those cartoons you do of Tom DeFalco on the Bullpen Page and in "The Bossmen" in MARVEL AGE. You make him look like a big, fat slob! It's so funny because nobody could be that ignorant and run a company in real life!

Jack McCollough, Austin, TX

That's right! We try to make Tom look as bad as we can to make him look that much better in real life!

Dear BEEP-ers,

I really loved the Cool-O-Meter when you used to run it on the Bullpen Page. Will you be bringing it back?

Calvin Bogley, Detroit, MI

Cool it, Cal. The O-Meter was just about the worst received feature we've ever run. Even worse than the Pro-Files of assistant editors!

Dear BBers,

I tried reading the Bullpen Borderline Blather, but I don't understand it! It seems like a collection of buzzwords from the pages of *Omni*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *Skeptical Inquirer*! What's the concept here?

Jerry Goleman, Cincinnati, OH

Well, Jerry, the Blather section is our way of exposing all of you Marveloids to the topical buzzwords of the turbulent times we all live in — kind of as a public service. Anyone who can correctly define or identify every item in the Blather is invited to write in with them and receive a coveted quasi-award!

Dear Bullheads,

First there were Marvelites. Now there are Marveloids. What do you think will be the next nickname for Marveldom Assembled?

Mark Balmaseda, Clearwater, FL

Our prediction: either Marvellions, Marvelacs, or Stinking Mute Scums.

Well, Marveloids, that's it for this time 'round. If you have short questions, comments, or conundrums of a Bullpenic nature, send 'em to:

Bullpen Bulletins
Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **BARBIE FASHION #32:** Barbie is the life of everyone's party!
- ☐ **CONAN SAGA #77:** Tursnans, were-wolves and sea monsters ... oh my!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #56:** Infinity Crusade Crossover !OO!! Doc spies on the Avengers!
- ☐ **DRAGON LINES #4 OF 4:** The Monkey King joins the Spirit Boxer to form the greatest team since Simon met Garfunkel!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #378:** Dr. Doom commands the Thing to kill Ms. Marvel!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #13:** The clock winds down as the Midnight Massacre concludes!
- ☐ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #3:** Cuchulain, the Irish Wolfhound — he's off the leash and hot under the collar!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #295:** Technovore wants to scuttle Stark's space station!
- ☐ **LAWDOG #4:** Is Lawdog dying? Take him to the vet!
- ☐ **MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #33:** Warpath, Gideon, and Bloodaxe!
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #52:** Introducing Peng — he's no instant breakfast drink!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #63:** The conclusion to Hue battle!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #57:** Huntin' vampires with Ghost Rider and Deathlok!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #83:** !OO! Surf frees his mind and wants to switch bodies!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN: CARNAGE:** Reprinting the debut of Venom's baby boy!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #2:** The Maximum Carnage comes to a mind-numbing conclusion!
- ☐ **THOR #465:** !OO! Goddess sends Thor on a crusade into space!
- ☐ **VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE #1 OF 3:** With the Punisher and an all-new villain, Pyre!
- ☐ **WARHEADS #14:** Final fog-bound issue!
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC #86:** Rogue rocks Muir Island!

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I AM A KNIGHT IN HER CRUSADE.
I AM SWORN TO DO HER BIDDING.
SHE WILL REIGN SUPREME. NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE CAN STAND AGAINS--
I'D HOPED THIS WOULD END DIFFERENTLY. I'D HOPED YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO BREAK THE GODDESS'S HOLD OVER YOU.
BUT I REALIZE HER GRIP IS TOO STRONG...
AGGH!
...AND I HAVE NO MORE TIME FOR YOUR MANIA!
GUH!

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...CANNOT... FAIL HER... YOU... MUST NOT WARN... HER ENEMIES...
..THE GODDESS WILL TRIUMPH..WHATEVER THE COST...
SUCH FANATICISM IS A DANGEROUS THING.
I...WILL NOT SUBMIT...
..THE GODDESS IS MY ALL...
..SHE IS THE WAY AND THE TRUTH...
..I HAVE NO LIFE BUT TO SERVE HER...
...WILL NOT SUBMIT...
I KNOW.

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FREE MAGNETO #0!

In celebration of the X-Men's 30th Anniversary, Marvel is producing an exclusive limited edition **Magneto #0!**

Highlighted by a stunning foil-embossed cardstock cover and glossy interior pages, **Magneto #0** contains three classic Magneto stories - including his origin!

The bad news is that **Magneto #0** is not for sale at any price from Marvel!

The good news is that you can get one copy of **Magneto #0** free for each set that you buy from us of **X-Men #24, X-Force #26, X-Factor #94, Cable #5, & Wolverine #73.**

Even better, all orders postmarked or faxed by July 10th will get a 20% discount off this set which carries a $7.50 retail cover price!

Because of the extremely limited print run of **Magneto #0**, all orders received after July 10th will be strictly limited! So order now!!!

☆ **Magneto #0 Set** (Five issues plus Magneto #0).....**7.50**

Each set includes one copy of X-Men #24, X-Force #26, X-Factor #94, Cable #5, Wolverine #73, & one free Magneto #0.

***Important**: these five X-titles & **Magneto #0** will not start shipping until July 27th. (See ordering instructions next page!)
Also, all orders received postmarked or faxed after July 10th will be strictly limited to one Magneto #0 set per customer!

X-MEN 30

With the return of Magneto & Cable, these X-Men items are red hot!!!

Magneto Poster (Jim Lee art)	$5
Sabretooth 1 (All new series - Limit 2)	$3
Uncanny X-Men 281 282,284-299,301-303	$2
Uncanny X-Men 277-280,283, Ann 15-17	$3
Uncanny X-Men 300,304 (Hologram - Lim 2)	$5
Wizard X-Men 30th Anniversary Special 1	$5
Wolverine 50,52,55-73 (Limit 1)	$2
X-Factor 70-83,88-91,93,94 (Limit 2)	$2
X-Factor 87-89,84-87, Ann 7,8 (Limit 1)	$3
X-Factor 92 (1st - Hologram - Limit 1)	$5
X-Force 2-24 26 (Lim 2) **S2 25** (Lim 2)	$5
X-Force 1 (Gold Cover), Annual 1 (Lim 2)	$3
☆ **X-Force #1 Set** (All 5 issues - Limit 2)	$15
Contains all 5 versions of X-Force #1 with all five cards!	
X-Men 1 (Deluxe), 2-16, Annual 1 (Lim 2)	$3
X-Men 1 (Wolv cover), 17-24 (Limit 2)	$2
☆ **X-Men #1 Set** (All 5 versions - Limit 2)	$10
Contains all 5 versions of X-Men #1! Jim Lee art	
X-Men Adventures 1,2,6,8-10 (Limit 2)	$3
X-Men Anniversary Magazine (48 pages)	$3.95
X-Men Boxed Set & Rulebook (TSR)	$18
X-Men Cards Series I (Pack) $2 II (Pack)	$1.50
X-Men Giant Size 1 (Origin X-Men - 1992)	$3
X-Men Mutant Sourcebook (TSR)	$15
X-Men Posterbook (Contains 32 posters)	$5
X-Men Survival Guide (64 pages)	$6.95
X-Men T-Shirt (Jim Lee art - Large or XL)	$14.95
X-Men Unlimited 1,2 (64 pgs - Limit 2)	$5

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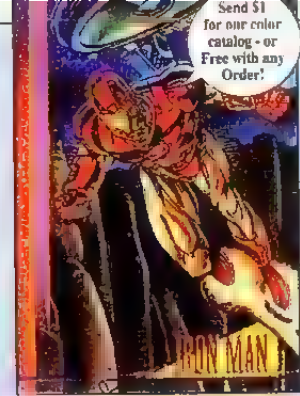
All Orders By 7/10/93 Get a 20% Discount Off All Prices!

Adv Superman 500 (Collector Edit - Lim 2) . $3
Set - All 5 Collector Editions (1st Print) 7.95
Includes collectors edition of Action 687, Superman 78, Adventures Superman 500, 501 & Man of Steel 22!
Batman 492(1st - Lim 1) $5, 493-498(1st) $3
Bloodstrike 1,2(Lim 2) $2. Brigade II #1,2 $2
Darker Image 1,2 $2. Deathblow 1 ..... $2
Detective 659-665 (1st Print - Lim 2) $3
Image Swimsuit Special 1 (Limit 2) $3
Marvel Cards Series IV(Pack) $1 (Box) $36
Marvel 1993 Swimsuit Special (Limit 2) $5
Maxx 1,2(Limit 5) $2 1(Glow-in-dark) $30
Secret Weapons 1 (New - Limit 2) $3
Spawn 8,7(Lim 1) $5 Spawn 8-11(Lim 2) .. $3
StormWatch 1,2 (Lim 5)$2 Tribe 1,2(Lim 5) $2
Venom 1,2 (1st Print - Limit 2) $3
Wild Cats 1,3,4(Lim 2) $3 2(Lim 2) . $7.50
X-O Trade (1st Print w/ Sourcebook Limit 1) . $10
Youngblood #0 (w/ coupon), 1(2nd),3,4 (1st) $3
Youngblood Strikefile 1,2 (Limit 2) .. . $2



HOT CARDS!

DC Cosmic Teams Cards (New! - Pack) $1.00
Death of Superman Cards (Limit 5) $3.00
Marvel Series I (Impel Limit 5) $5.00
Marvel Series II (Impel - Limit 5) $4.00
Marvel Series III (SkyBox - Pack) $1.50
Marvel Series IV (SkyBox Pack) $1.00
Spiderman II (Comic Images - Pack) $1.00
Wolverine II (Comic Images - Pack) $1.00
X-Men Series I Cards (Impel - Pack) ... $2.00
X-Men Series II Cards (SkyBox - Pack) $1.50
Valiant Unity Cards (Per Pack) $1.00
Youngblood Cards (Comic Images - Pack) .$1.00

PREMIUM BLOWOUT

Aliens (Limited Platinum edition - Limit 1) $30
Darker Image 1 (Limited Silver logo) $50
Death 1 (Limited Platinum - Limit 1) .. $100
Deathblow 1 (Limited Ashcan edition) . .$20
Ex-Mutants 1 (Limited Platinum Lim 1) $25
Harbinger #0 (Limited Sand Away) $300
Homage Swimsuit 1 (Ashcan edition) $20
Magneto #0 (Limited gold logo - Limit 1) $100
Magnus 21 (Limited gold logo - Limit 1) ..$75
Maxx 1 (Limited Glow-in-the-dark) $30
Rai 9 (Limited gold logo - Limit 1) $75
Sav Dragon vs Megaton 1 (Limited Edition) $30
StormWatch 1 (Limited & Signed Ashcan) $20
Turok 1 (Limited Gold logo Limit 1) $75
Turok Chromium Card (Limit 1) $25
Unity 1 (Limited Gold Cover - Limit 1) $50
Venom 1 (Limited Gold Edition - Limit 1) . $50
Wild CATS 1 (Limited Gold - Limit 1) $100
Wild CATS 4 (with Wizard card - Limit 1) $20
Wild Star 1 (Gold Cover Limited Edition) .. $30

HOT COMICS

Aliens Colonial Marine 1,2 ..... $2
Amaz Spiderman 362,365,375(1st) $5
383,384,388,388-374,376-378 $2
Archie & Armstrong 0,2 (Lim 1) $15
1,8 $10 3,4,6,10 $5 7,9,11-14 $3
Batman 436,457 493-498(1st-Lim 2) $3
434,435,437-450,458-462,486 ... $1
Batman: Legends Dark Knight
1-12,20-26,28-30,36-41,44,Ann 1 $2
Bloodstrike 1 $10 2 $6 3 $5 7-9 ... $3
Brigade 1 2 $7.50 3,4 (Lim 2) ... $3
1 (Gold) $75 Book II #1,2 (Lim 2) $2
Cable 1,2 (Mini) $3 1 (New!) $6
Cyberforce 2,3 $3 Deathblow 1 ... $2
Deathmask 1(Lim 1)$15 2,3,5,6 .... $5
9-12,25,Ann 1 $2 15-24,26-28 $1
Darker Image 1(Limited) $50 1,2 $2
Eternal Warrior 1,5 (Limit 1) $15
2,3,6(Lim 1) 7,9 $5 10-14 $1
Ghost Rider 1(Gold),2,28,31 .... $3
16-24,29,30-34,36-38(Lim 2) .. $2
Harbinger 5,6 (coupon) $60 7 $20
0 (Limited) $300 10,14 (Lim 1) $15
6,8,11-13,15-17 $6 18-21(Lim 2) $3
Hardcorps 1-3(Lim 1)$5 4-10(Lim 2) $3
Hulk 383-387,389,393-403 (1st) . $2
Lobo Back 1,2,4 $3 Blazing Chain 1 $3
Intrinsicals 1,3 $3 Unanatomical 1 $3
Omega Men 5,9,18 $5 10,20,37 $5
Magnus 5 (with card)$50 9,10 $20
13,14,17(Lim 1) $10 6,7,8,15-21 $5
21 (Gold) $75 22-29 (Lim 2) $3
Maxx 1-3 (Limit 5) $2 1 (Limited) $30
New Mutants 100(1st)$10 100(2nd) $2
87 (Gold) $1 Ann 5 $15 Ann 7 .. $8
New Warriors 10-14,25 (Lim 1) .. $3
15-24,26-34 Annual 1 ..... $2
Phantom Force 1 $3 Pbl 1,2(Lim 2) $3
Predator vs. Magnus 1,2 (Lim 2) .. $5
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9-13 (Lim 2) $3 8 (Gold Lim 1) $75

Savage Dragon 1,2(Lim 1) $10 3 $6
vs Megaton 1 $3 vs Meg 1(gold)$30
Shadowhawk 1(Lim 1)$20 3,4 $3
Shadowman 1 $40 2,3,8(Lim 2) $20
4,5,9,15,18(Lim 1)$8 10-13,17 $3
Silver Surfer 69-74,76-79(Lim 2) $2
Spawn 12,13,18-19,23 (Lim 1) $5
20-22,24,25 (Limit 2) $3
Spawn 1,3,4(Lim 1)$15 5(Lim 1)$10
6,7 (Lim 1) $5 8-11 (Lim 2) .. $3
Speed Spider 189,190-199(1st) $2
Spiderman 2,3,5 (Limit 1) ..... $1 ea
6-12,14,26 $3 16,27-29,27-33 $2
Stormwatch 1,2 (Limit 5) $2
Supreme 1-3(Lim 2) $3 Title 1 $2
Turok 1-3 (Lim 2) $5 1 (Gold) $75
Uncanny X-Men 248(1st Print) $25
270(1st) $10 280,272,300,304 $5
277-280,283,Ann 15-17(Lim 2) $3
281,282,284-298,301-303 ... $2
Unity 0 (Limit 1) $5 1(Limit 1) $15
0 (Red Lim 1) $150 1(Gold) $50
Venom 1,2(Lim 2) $3 1 (Gold) $60
Web Spiderman 90,95,99(1st) $2
Wild CATS 1,3,4(Lim 2) $3 2 $7.50
Wild Star 1 (Gold) $30 1,2(Lim 2) $3
Wolverine 50,52,55-73 (Lim 1) .. $2
X-Factor 70-83,86-91,93,94(Lim 2) $3
51-55 57-60,84-87,Ann 7(Lim 1)$3
X-Force 2 24,26 (Lim 2) $2 25 .. $5
X-Men 1 (Deluxe),2-16(Lim 2) .. $3
1(Wolverine cover), 17,24(Lim 2) $2
X-O Manowar 0(Lim 1) $5 Trade $10
7-9,13(Lim 1)$5 14-21(Lim 2) $3
Youngblood 0 1(2nd),3,4(Lim 2) $3
Youngblood Strikefile 1,2 ..... $2

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50 Boring Comix $3.95
100 Plastic Bags $4.95

Comic Grab Bag

Collector Comic Bag $7
(10 valuable comics! Lots of #1's)
Comic Surprise Bag $9
(20 different valuable comics!)
Beast Sample Bag $4.95
(Contains 5 different superhero comics)
Valiant Sample Bag $6.95
(Contains 5 different superhero comics)

$1.00 COMICS

Avengers 361,364,381 Black Ann 1
Avengers W Coast 85,89-94 Ann 7
Batman 434,435,437-456,458-464
457 473,475,476,478-48 483,486
Capt America 398,406,4 0,412-416
Cage 1-4 7 9-16 Daredevil 309-315
Deathstalk 2-4 26-28 Fant 4 368,374
Detective 609-624, 626,63 -640,643
643,644 Dragonlance 1 (New!)
Gl Joe 60,61,65,66 Iron Man 268,290
Special Missions 3,5,6,8,9,11,12
JLA 56,63,72 JLE 4 7 10,16,33,36
Legion 150,5 11,32,37 38,46,49, Ann 2
Legion 1,21,23 LoneDog 1

Marvel Comics 88,91 126,128
Moon Knight 42-45,47-49
Mod Sqd 1 New Mutants 87(Gold)
Quasar 36,43,44,46
Robin 1 4 5 (1990) Robin II 1(1991)
Silver Sable 1 7 1 She Hulk 47,60
SHIELD 44,41 44,46 Super Soldier 1
Sleepwalker 3,5,7,9-12 14,19-21,23
Thor 451-450,458-461 Untamed 1
Tusitala (Archie) 1,4,6,9,12-14,
Turtles (Mirage) 18,22 28,30,32-40
Uncanny X-Men 282 (Gold Cover)
Warlock & IW 1-4,7-10 Wild Thing 1
Wonderman 1,2,14-16,18,20; Ann 1

$2.00 COMICS

Action 685(1st), 687 (Collector Edit)
Adv Superman 499(1st) 50 (Collector)
Adv Superman 500(Newsstand)
Alpha Flight 39-48,120 Avengers 360
Amaz Spider 358,366 374,376-378
Blood Syndicate 1(Collector Edit-Lim 1)
Deathmatch 9-12 25 Deathstroke 2-6,7
Death Head II 1 3(New!), Bolbidin 1-4
Doom 2099 2,4 Fant Four 371,375
Deathlok 2-8,10-14 16-20,22 Ann 1
Deathstroke 5,6,13,16 18,21
Dr. Strange 28,33,36,37,39,41-52
Excalibur 30,33,34,42-44,59 62,63
Ghost Rider 16-24,29,30-34,36-38
Guardian Galaxy 19,21-23,26-30
Hardcore 1 (Collector) Icon 1(Collector)
Hellstorm 1 Hulk 383-387,390 404
Legends Dark Knight 1-12,20-26
28-30, Ann 1 Midnight Sons 1
Maxx 1-3(Lim 5) 1(93) 1-3 (Lim 5)
Morbius 1-4,6-8 Myst-Tech Wars 1,2
Motormouth 1,3-8,11 Next Men 6 12

Namor 29 32 34,39 Nomad 6-8
New Titans 2,88,89,85,86,89,92 94
New Warriors 16-24,26-34, Ann 1
Punisher 28,34,57,61 72,74-77
Punisher War Journal 29,33,35,41-53
Punisher War Zone 1,3-12 (Limit 2)
Punisher 2099 1-3 Revenge 1-6(Lim 1)
Resurrection 1,2 Secret Defenders 1,2
Robin II 1,3-5 Shadow Dst 2,5,11
Silv Surfer 57-79 Spidey 2099 1 4,5,7
Spect Spiderman 189(1st),195-199
Spiderman 18,22-25,27-33 (Limit 2)
Starchaser 1 (Lim 1) Title 12
Supermarket 78(1st),79 (Collector)
Superman Man Steel 1,20,22(Collector)
Uncanny X-Men 284-298,300 -303
Web of Spiderman 90(1st) 94,95,99
What If 24,26,31,36,40-48 (Limit 2)
Wolverine 47,50,52,55-73 (Lim 1)
X-Factor 70-83,86-91 93,94 (Lim 2)
X-Force 2-24(Lim 2) Warheads 1,5-9
X-Men 1(Wolv Cover), 17-24 (Limit 2)

$3.00 COMICS

Archer/Armstrong 9 11 14 Brigade 3,4
Cable 1 2(Mini) Cyberforce 3,4 (Lim 2)
Death 1 (Lim 1) Enigma 1 (Lim 2)
Detective 666-665 (1st Print Limit 2)
Eternal Warrior 10 -4 (Lim 2) JLA 70
Ghost Rider 16(Gold),25-28,31 (Lim 2)
Harbinger 16-21 (Lim 2) Hell's Angel 1-6
Hard Corps 4-10 (Lim 2) Infinity War 1,2
Lobo Back 1,2,4 Lobo Infanticide 1-4
Magnus 22-25 Marvel Comics 72,84
New Titans Ann 5,7,8 Omega Men 5,8
New Warriors 8-14,25 Nightwatchers 1-8
Phantom Force Pbl 1,2 (Lim 2)
Rai 9-13 (Lim 2) Robin I 1,2 (1st)

Robin II 1-4(Bagged) Shadowhawk 3,4
Solar 20-22,24,25 Spawn 8 11(Lim 2)
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EVEN YOU HAVE YOUR LIMITS, FIRELORD. IT SHAMES ME THAT I WAS FORCED TO PUSH YOU BEYOND THEM.
IN TIME YOUR BODY WILL HEAL FROM THESE INJURIES.
I WONDER IF OUR FRIENDSHIP WILL AS WELL.
FORGIVE ME.

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...FOR THANOS OF TITAN HAS NEED OF YOU.
FIND OUT WHAT THANOS HAS IN STORE FOR THE SURFER IN INFINITY CRUSADE #4, THEN JOIN THEM BOTH BACK HERE NEXT MONTH FOR...
THE STATION

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Editor—Craig Anderson **Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust**
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

Attention Correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

To the Cosmic Crew,

I must say that the pace of the SILVER SURFER has really picked up in recent issues. The interplay of power at a cosmic level (and the egos backing them), has always appealed to me. So I find myself drawn to Timothy's letter in issue #79 on the relative strengths of Galactus's heralds. In particular Terrax, Firelord, Silver Surfer and Airwalker as well as the late Nova.

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE gives the "Class 100" strength label to any being who can press in excess of 100 tons. I believe it refers to the entire range between 101 and 999 tons. Of the five heralds I have highlighted, I believe Terrax comes closest to this range. My personal estimate is that he is able to lift 100 tons. If he has Class 100 strength, then he would be at its lowest ranges.

The feat Terrax accomplished with the Island of Manhattan in FANTASTIC FOUR #242 is clearly beyond even a Class 100 strength individual. The explanation lies in Terrax's cosmic power rather than in his strength. His power is rooted to the elements of the earth. Of all the four elements, earth is associated with mass and mass with gravity. Hence his feats with earth and rock probably lie in his ability to manipulate mass, probably through its relative gravitational field.

The elements that Firelord, Airwalker and Nova manipulate are no less powerful in their individual ways. However, these elements are less related to mass than earth, leading to the concept that they are less physical. Adding to this conception is the fact that these three heralds have a physical musculature that is lesser than Terrax's. Hence, I would put their strength level as below Terrax's. This is my personal estimate:

Airwalker—75 tons
Firelord—50-75 tons
Nova—30-50 tons

And now for the man himself, Silver Surfer. The Silver Surfer has been physically hard-pressed by foes such as Loki and Iron Man when the Surfer teamed up with Hulk and Namor against the Avengers. He has admitted in Vol. 1, #4, that Thor possesses "more strength than he could know." Thus, the Silver Surfer clearly does not have Class 100 strength. I believe his strength is at the level of Firelord's—50-75 tons.

Therefore, Galactus was right at the time when he said that Terrax was his strongest herald. But if you believe the Silver Surfer is the most powerful, you are also correct. He may have a degree of mastery over the elements that we do not yet even know about.

Mark Tee
10 Rosyth Ave.
Singapore 1954

It's quite obvious that you have put a lot of thought into this matter, Mark, but don't forget that strength and power don't necessarily have anything to do with each other. For example, the Molecule Man doesn't have the strength to lift a house, but he has the power to lift a mountain—and a lot more!

Dear Cosmic Pipeline,

I would like to say that issues #76 and #77 were awesome, and very exciting. Nebula has gotten totally violent and Gaetar is even more brutal. I have just started collecting SILVER SURFER. Hopefully I won't ever stop. I hope the Jack of Hearts turns out all right and Surfer gets out of the fix he's in at the end of issue #77. I must compliment Lim and Vincent on a great job. Well, until Silver Surfer sits down and has a cup of coffee with Thanos, make mine Marvel!

Ron Siegel
10301 Rushton Rd.
PO Box S
South Lyon, MI 48178

No chance of that, Ron. Thanos only likes a good cup of tea...English Breakfast with a dash of cream and a squirt of lemon.

Dear Silver Surfers,

I grieve for Nova. I felt the same way Terrax did. I'm glad he did what he did.

The Jack of Hearts storyline was great! I'm looking forward to the next issue.

I hope to see some of the Earth's heroes in the near future. Will this transpire? Could Spider-Man do a guest appearance? I want to compliment Ron Lim for his outstanding artwork. Without a doubt, no one draws the Silver Surfer better.

Until the Silver Surfer becomes the bronze boogie-boarder, make mine Marvel.

Nick Barnes
21405 Summerside
Northville, MI 48167

Once again, Nick, no chance of that. We have plenty of silver polish on hand. See, we're always one step ahead at Mighty Marvel!

Dear Ron,

The winner for the first 1993 "Patrick C. Duke Villain of the Week Award" is *Nebula!* (For SILVER SURFER #77.)

See, Nebula (who I used to not like) is shaping up to be a pretty decent character. As mastermind/leader-types go, she's crafty, cruel and—get this—practical! I mean, really, if one of Doom's flunkies hit him, even on his own orders, that poor flunkie would have to die. She let herself be handcuffed, beaten, stripped, almost more...this is the kind of character who belongs in spy book or "Batman," not the sort you expect in a galactic-scale, *super* super hero book.

I'm really sorry Morg is back so soon. His death was much too powerful. I suppose I'll get over it.

Patrick C. Duke
PO Box 206
Ruffin, NC 27326

Nebula has only just begun, Patrick. See more of her villainy in future issues of THE SECRET DEFENDERS!

NEXT ISSUE: Direct from the pages of INFINITY CRUSADE #4! The Surfer has become a living cosmic *bomb* in a last-ditch attempt to stop the Goddess—but will he survive the explosion? Find out next issue...and meet the Surfer's parents! Be here!

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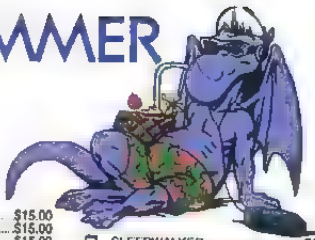

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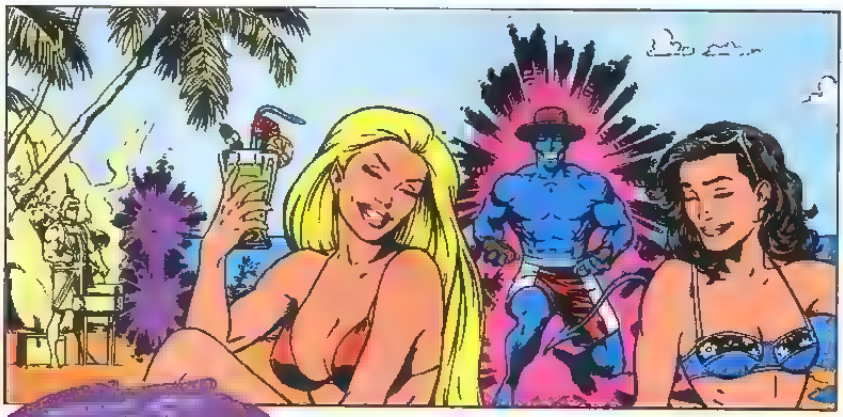

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MARVEL VISION

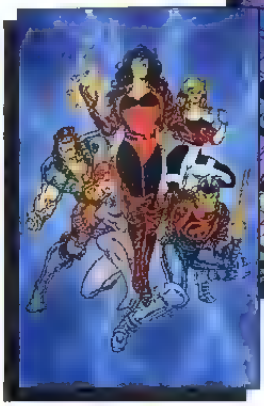
AN INSIDE LOOK AT THIS MONTH'S HOTTEST COMICS!

UNCANNY X-MEN #304

MAGNETO RETURNS, but not for good. At least, not for the good of humanity. And, not for the good of Professor X as both dreamers for a mutant destiny clash in an epic battle. It's by Scott Lobdell and John Romita Jr. And, while you're at it, don't miss a startling change in the loyalties of one of the greatest X-Men ever.

AVENGERS #366

The Kree return for the blood of their slain. And it's up to the Avengers to stop them from dropping a Nega-Bomb on Earth. By the creative team Bob Harras, Steve Epting and Tom Palmer! Gold embossed foil cover! 64 Pages!



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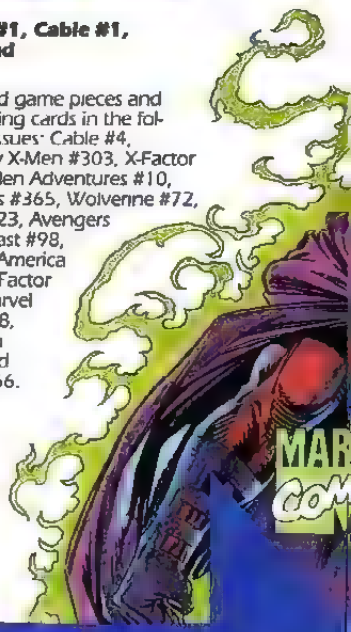

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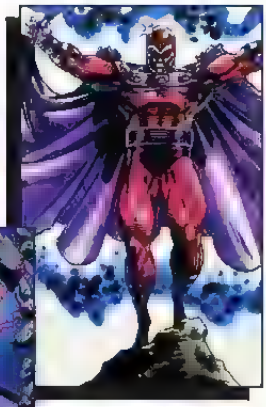

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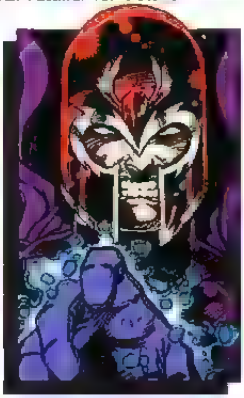

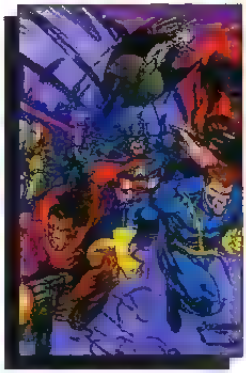

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The truth of Magneto's uncanny origin is revealed in the second issue of this "hot" new X-Men quarterly. It's 64 pages charged with incredible x-citement on high quality glossy paper by Fabian Nicieza and Jan Duursema.

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It's U.S.Agent, War Machine and Thunderstrike against Captain America, Iron Man and Thor! Issue one features a cover enhanced holo-grafx star-field foil pattern! By Mark Gruenwald, Mike Gustavich and Bud LaRosa.

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WHAT MILLIONS DIED--THAT CAESAR MIGHT BE GREAT! — THOMAS CAMPBELL

MORTAL SINS

THERE ARE MANY ACTORS IN THIS GRAND DRAMA, AND I, THANOS, APPEAR TO BE THE ONLY PARTICIPANT WITH A FULL GRASP ON THE SITUATION.
INTERESTING.
ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUMENTATION, EARTH'S GATHERED CHAMPIONS ARE CURRENTLY ROCKETING TOWARD PARADISE OMEGA, HOME OF ADAM WARLOCK'S VIRTUOUS FEMALE DOPPELGANGER, THE GODDESS...
...A MENACE TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WHOSE THREAT HAS UNEXPECTEDLY ENDED.
SOME UNKNOWN AGENT HAS APPARENTLY SLAIN HER.

JIM STARLIN STORY | RON LIM PENCILS | AL MILGROM INKS | JACK MORELLI LETTERS | IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS | LYNAIRE BRUST ASSISTANT | CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR | TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

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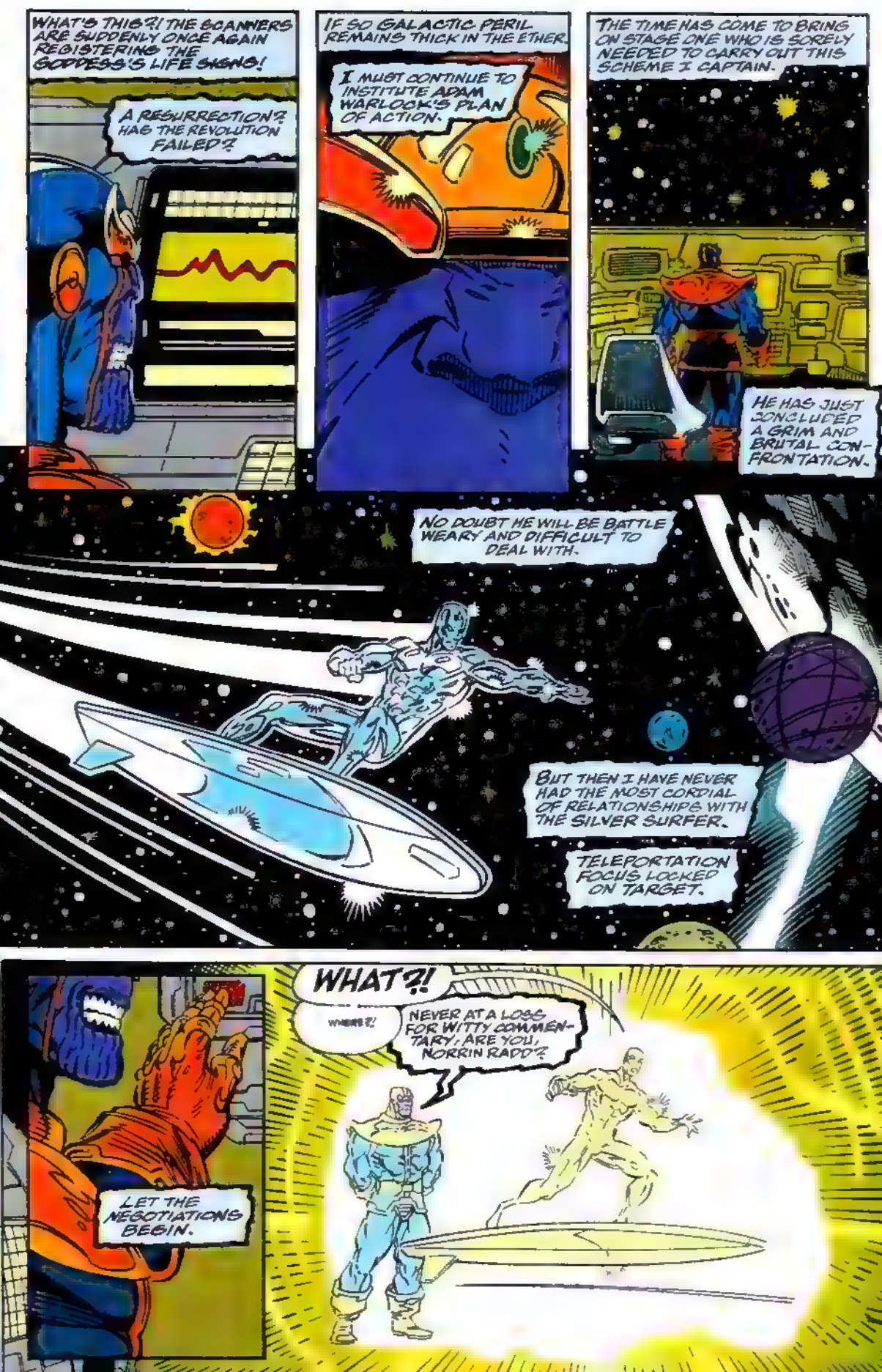
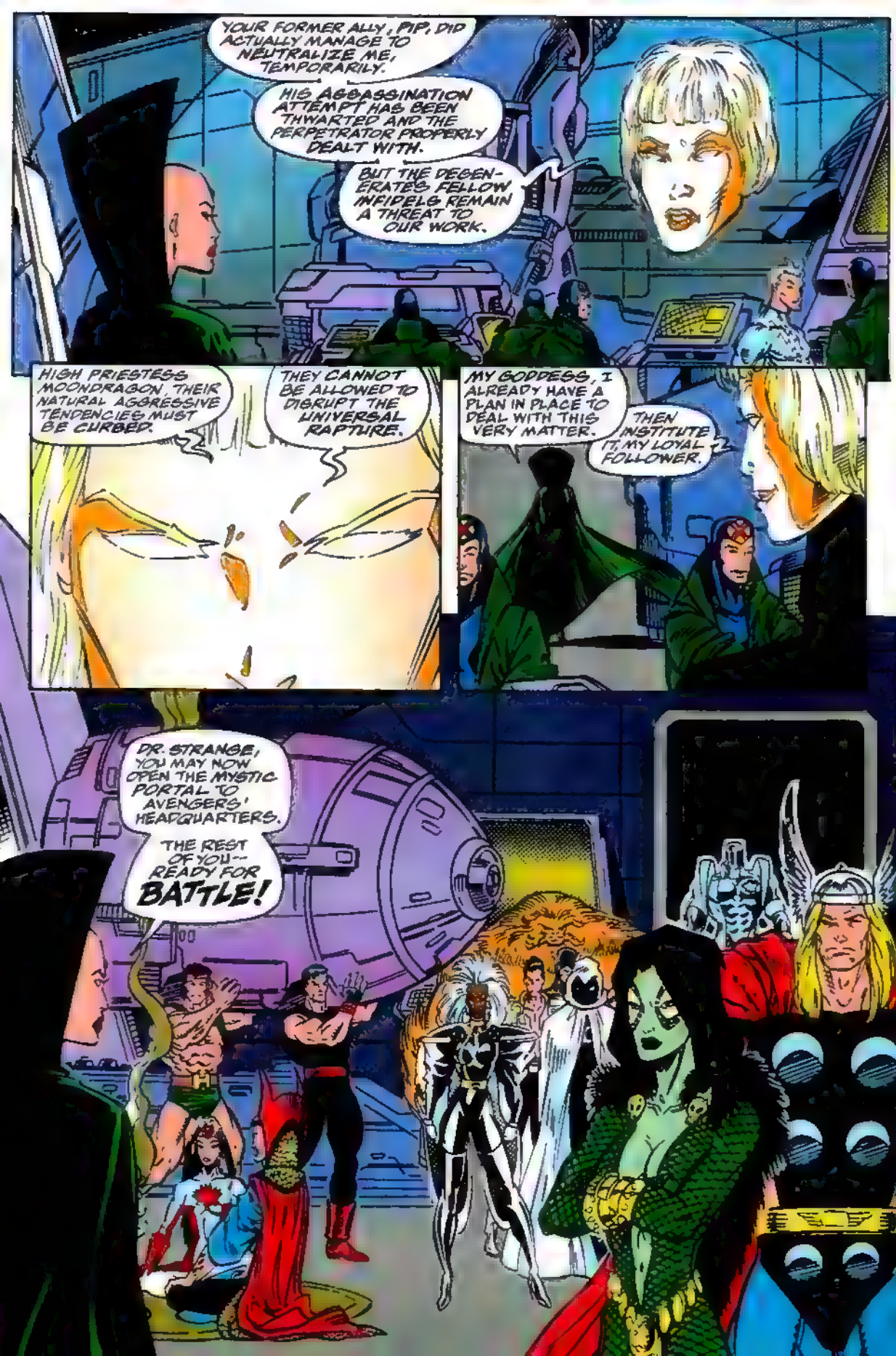

WHAT'S THIS?! THE SCANNERS ARE SUDDENLY ONCE AGAIN REGISTERING THE GODDESS'S LIFE SIGNS!
A RESURRECTION?! HAS THE REVOLUTION FAILED?!
IF SO GALACTIC PERIL REMAINS THICK IN THE ETHER.
I MUST CONTINUE TO INSTITUTE ADAM WARLOCK'S PLAN OF ACTION.
THE TIME HAS COME TO BRING ON STAGE ONE WHO IS SORELY NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THIS SCHEME I CAPTAIN.
HE HAS JUST CONCLUDED A GRIM AND BRUTAL CONFRONTATION.
NO DOUBT HE WILL BE BATTLE WEARY AND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.
BUT THEN I HAVE NEVER HAD THE MOST CORDIAL OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SILVER SURFER.
TELEPORTATION FOCUS LOCKED ON TARGET.
LET THE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.
WHAT?!
WHERE?!
NEVER AT A LOSS FOR WITTY COMMENTARY, ARE YOU, NORRIN RADD?

THANOS!
BEWARE, VILLAIN! I AM ABOUT BUSINESS MOST URGENT!
ANYONE SEEKING TO EVEN DELAY ME WILL SUFFER MY FULL WRATH, BACKED BY THE POWER COSMIC!
WELL, WE WOULD NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN NOW, WOULD WE?
SO I WILL SIMPLIFY MATTERS GREATLY BY ACQUIESCING TO YOUR WILL.
WHAT?!?
I CAPITULATE!
YOU WEAR ADAM WARLOCK'S SOUL GEM UPON YOUR FOREHEAD!
HOW?
THAT IS A QUESTION I WILL GLADLY ANSWER IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO ACCEPT MY SURRENDER.
WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THIS?

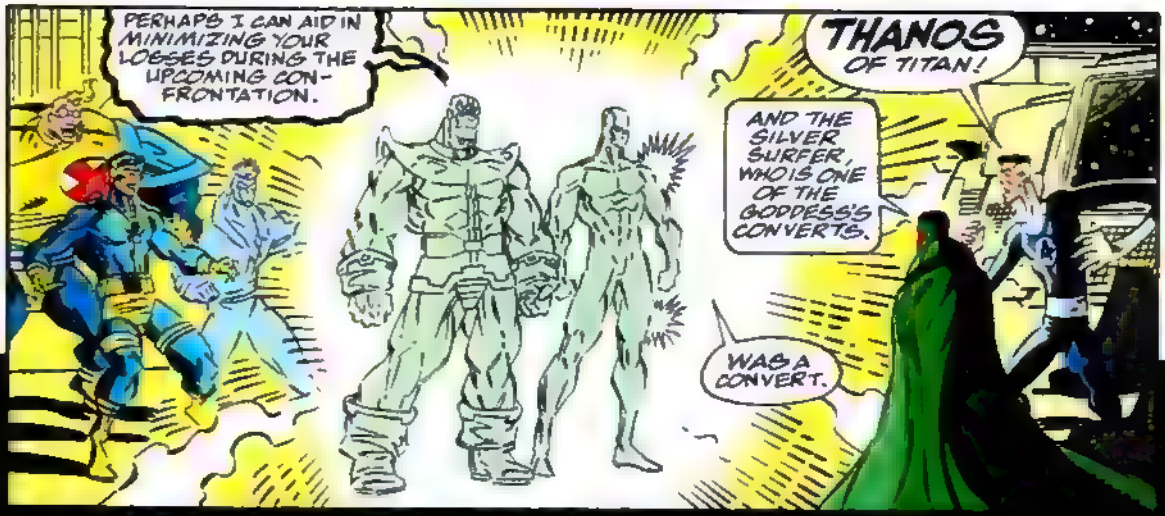

YOUR FORMER ALLY, PIP, DID ACTUALLY MANAGE TO NEUTRALIZE ME, TEMPORARILY.
HIS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HAS BEEN THWARTED AND THE PERPETRATOR PROPERLY DEALT WITH.
BUT THE DEGENERATES FELLOW INFIDELS REMAIN A THREAT TO OUR WORK.
HIGH PRIESTESS MOONDRAGON, THEIR NATURAL AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES MUST BE CURBED.
THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO DISRUPT THE UNIVERSAL RAPTURE.
MY GODDESS, I ALREADY HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH THIS VERY MATTER.
THEN INSTITUTE IT, MY LOYAL FOLLOWER.
DR. STRANGE, YOU MAY NOW OPEN THE MYSTIC PORTAL TO AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.
THE REST OF YOU-- READY FOR BATTLE!

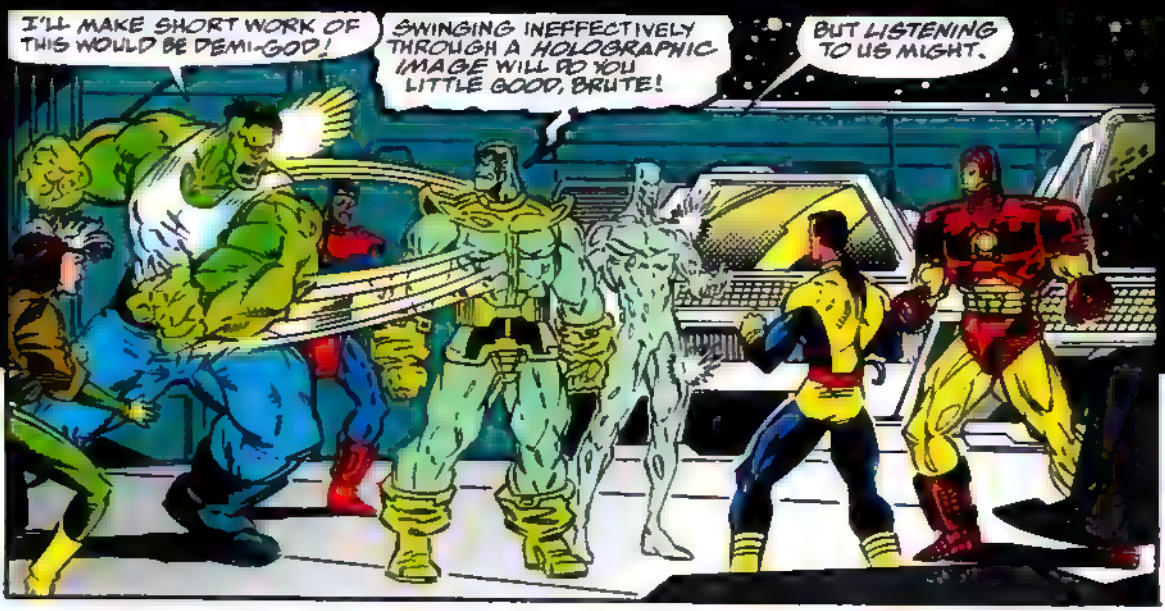
LET THERE BE
HOLY WAR!
"THERE'S NO ONE HERE!"
THEY MUST'VE DEPARTED AFTER WE TERMINATED OUR MYSTIC SURVEILLANCE!
THERE WAS NO WAY FOR US TO KNOW.
IF THEY'RE NOT HERE...
..THAT MEANS THEY'RE ON THERE WAY TO-- PARADISE OMEGA!
THIS CANNOT BE!

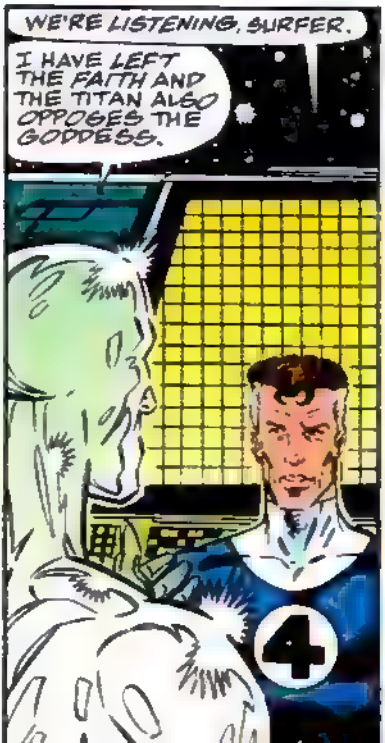
YOU SAY WARLOCK GAVE YOU HIS SOUL-GEM IN ORDER FOR IT TO TAKE HIS SPIRIT INTO SOUL WORLD?
HIS BODY WOULD NOT BE IN ITS CURRENT PRISTINE CONDITION IF I TOOK THE JEWEL FORCIBLY.
POSSESSING THE GEM MAKES ME PRIVY TO WARLOCK'S SCHEME TO THWART THE GODDESS'S MAD PLANS.
AND NOW I AM SUPPOSED TO TRUST AND AID YOU IN THESE MACHINATIONS?
DO YOU STILL WISH THE GODDESS TO SUCCEED IN HER ENDEAVORS?
NO. SHE HAS SHAMELESSLY MANIPULATED MY SOUL AND I SENSE THE DARKNESS IN HER INTENT.
YET ALLYING YOURSELF WITH EVIL THANOS IS INCONCEIVABLE.
DESPITE THE FACT THAT I WAS OF NO SMALL SERVICE IN ENDING THE DOPPELGANGER WARS.
ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS BENEFICIAL TO YOU TO DO SO.
WHICH IS ONCE AGAIN THE CASE.
I HAVE NO WISH TO LIVE IN A UNIVERSE DOMINATED BY THIS SO-CALLED GODDESS!
NOR HAVE I A COURSE OF ACTION BETTER SUITED TO THE SITUATION THAN THE ONE WARLOCK PRESENTED TO ME.
BUT THAT PLAN CANNOT WIN WITHOUT YOUR AID.
WELL?

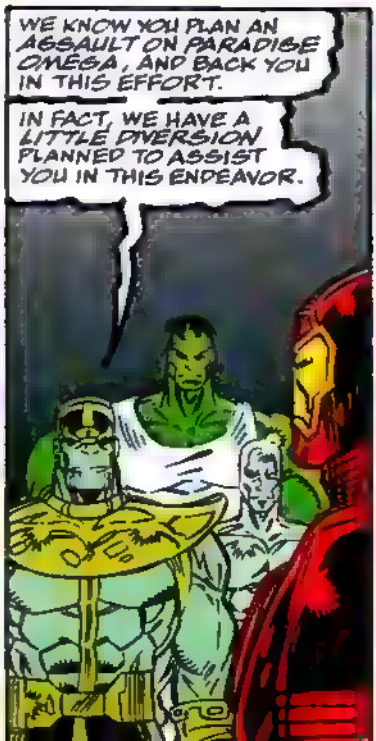
WITHIN SOUL WORLD.
ONCE HOME TO ADAM WARLOCK.
BELOW ME! I CANNOT BELIEVE IT!
GREETINGS, FRIENDS AUTOLYCUS AND JUDGE KRAY-TOR!
ADAM, YOU'VE RETURNED TO US!
ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE, UNFORTUNATELY.
WHAT MEAN YOU?
DIRE PERIL THREATENS THE REALITY OUTSIDE THIS EMERALD HEAVEN.
TO PROTECT IT, I HAVE RETURNED HOME TO ENLIST THE AID OF ONE WHO LIVES IN THIS REALM.
WHO BE THAT? JUDGE KRAY-TOR?
MYSELF?
NO ONE YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF.
BUT I KNOW EVERY SPIRIT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF SOUL WORLD.
TRUE.
YET YOU STILL, THANKFULLY, KNOW NOT THIS INDIVIDUAL.

BACK IN OUR OWN REALITY, MORE THAN THREE ASTRONOMICAL UNITS FROM EARTH, TWO MODIFIED AVENGERS' QUINJETS HOVER...
LONG-RANGE SCANNERS ARE NOT PICKING UP ANY ACTIVITY.
WHICH MEANS THE FOLKS ON PARADISE OMEGA ARE UNAWARE OF OUR PRESENCE, IRON MAN.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE COME INTO VISUAL RANGE?
THOSE ADJUSTMENTS YOU DID TO THE CLOAKING SYSTEM APPEAR TO HAVE DONE THE TRICK, REED.
HOPEFULLY, VISION, WE CAN GET PLANETSIDE SO FAST THEY WON'T HAVE TIME TO PREPARE AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE AGAINST US.
EVEN UNPREPARED, I'M AFRAID THE GODDESS'S WORSHIPPERS WILL PROVE A MOST DANGEROUS OPPONENT.
YES, WE'LL BE FACING OUR FORMER FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN A NO-HOLDS-BARRED BATTLE.
PLUS THEY'LL BE FIRED BY THE BELIEF THAT THEY BATTLE IN GOD'S NAME.
FATALITIES ON BOTH SIDES WILL BE HARD TO AVOID.
I KNOW.

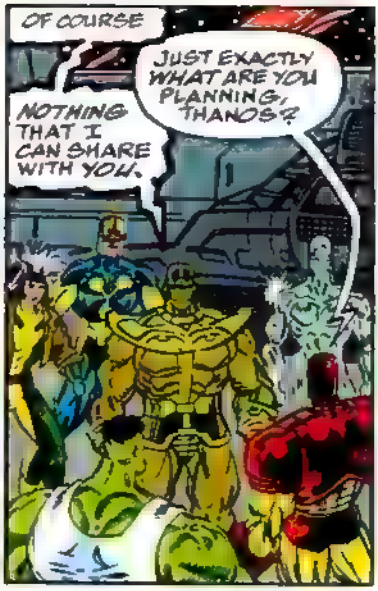

PERHAPS I CAN AID IN MINIMIZING YOUR LOSSES DURING THE UPCOMING CONFRONTATION.
THANOS OF TITAN!
AND THE SILVER SURFER, WHO IS ONE OF THE GODDESS'S CONVERTS.
WAS A CONVERT.


I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF THIS WOULD BE DEMI-GOD!
SWINGING INEFFECTIVELY THROUGH A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD, BRUTE!
BUT LISTENING TO US MIGHT.

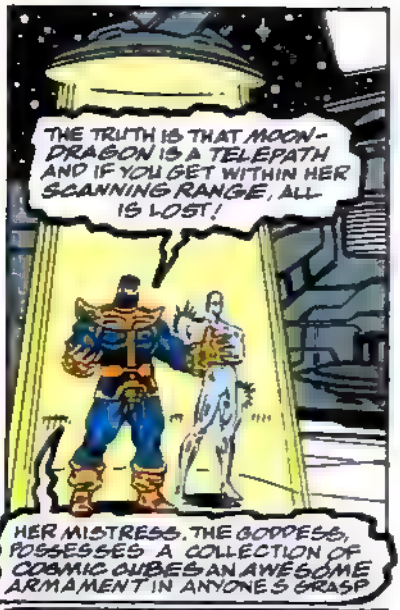

WE'RE LISTENING, SURFER.
I HAVE LEFT THE FAITH AND THE TITAN ALSO OPPOSES THE GODDESS.

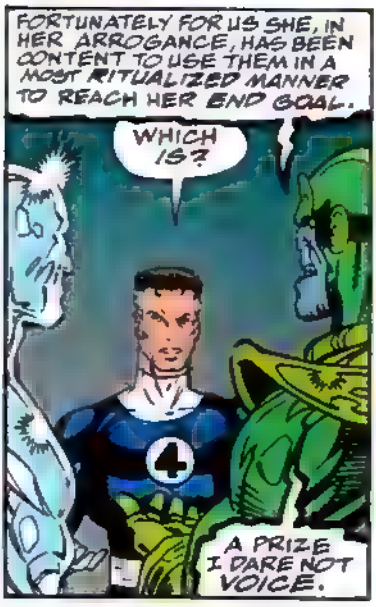

WE KNOW YOU PLAN AN ASSAULT ON PARADISE OMEGA, AND BACK YOU IN THIS EFFORT.
IN FACT, WE HAVE A LITTLE DIVERSION PLANNED TO ASSIST YOU IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

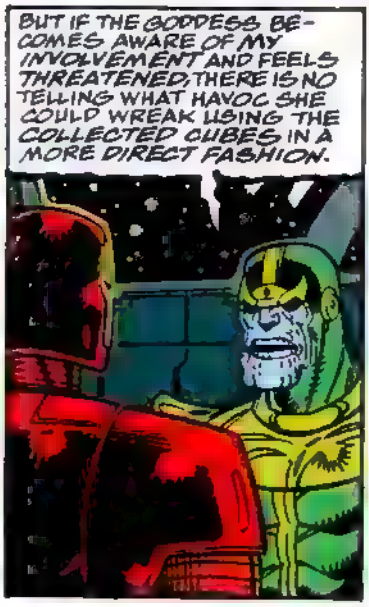
WHY?
BECAUSE YOUR ATTACK WILL ALLOW ME TO SURREPTITIOUSLY INSTITUTE CERTAIN COVERT ACTIONS OF MY OWN.
AGAINST THE GODDESS?


OF COURSE
JUST EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, THANOS?
NOTHING THAT I CAN SHARE WITH YOU.

WHY IS IT EVERY TIME I DEAL WITH THIS GUY I FEEL LIKE CANNON FODDER?
BECAUSE THAT'S OBVIOUSLY THE WAY HE SEES US.


THE TRUTH IS THAT MOON-DRAGON IS A TELEPATH AND IF YOU GET WITHIN HER SCANNING RANGE, ALL IS LOST!
HER MISTRESS, THE GODDESS, POSSESSES A COLLECTION OF COSMIC CUBES AN AWESOME ARMAMENT IN ANYONE'S GRASP


FORTUNATELY FOR US SHE, IN HER ARROGANCE, HAS BEEN CONTENT TO USE THEM IN A MOST RITUALIZED MANNER TO REACH HER END GOAL.
WHICH IS?
A PRIZE I DARE NOT VOICE.


BUT IF THE GODDESS BECOMES AWARE OF MY INVOLVEMENT AND FEELS THREATENED, THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT HAVOC SHE COULD WREAK USING THE COLLECTED CUBES IN A MORE DIRECT FASHION.

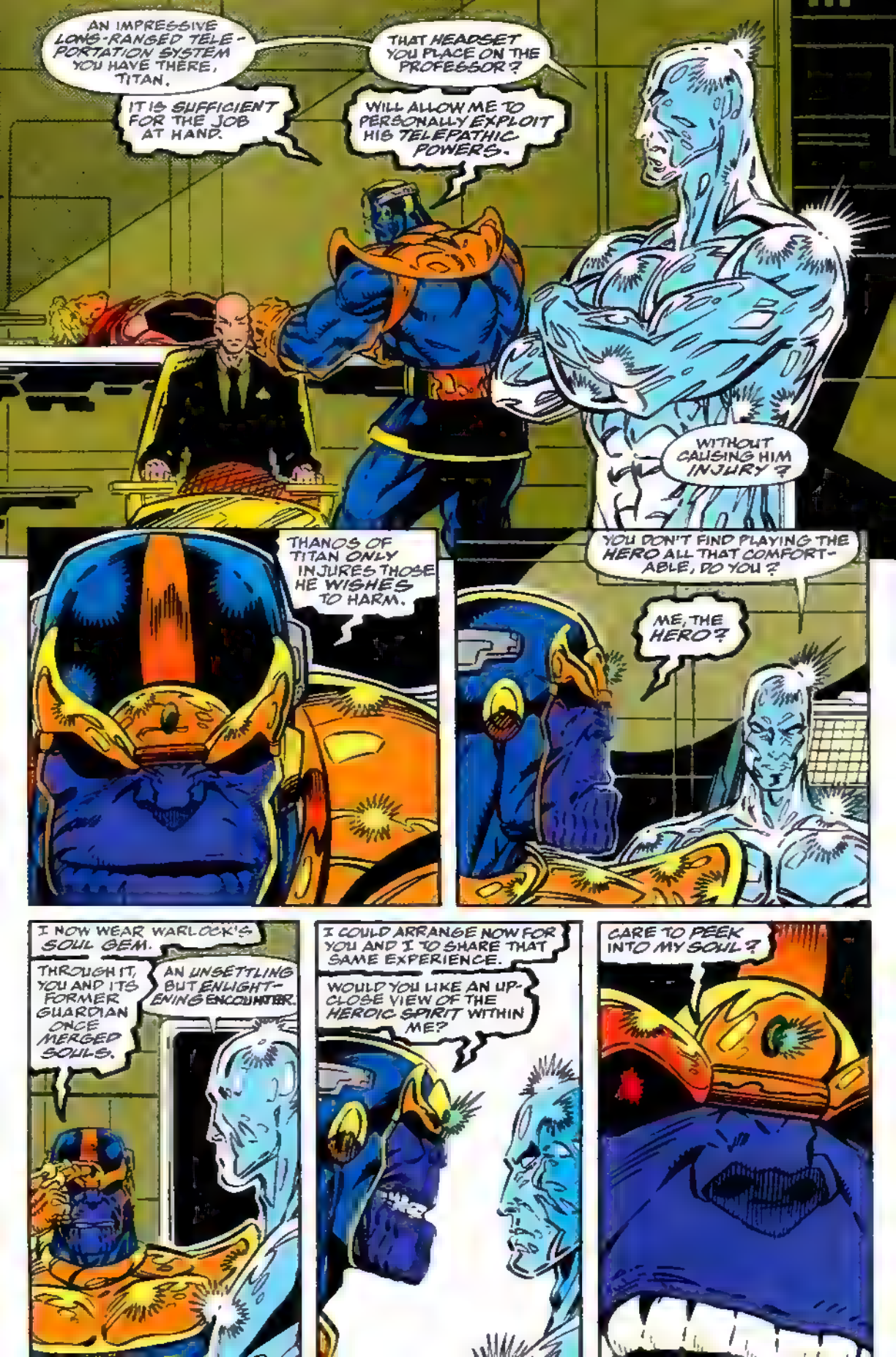
ONE LAST DETAIL: IN ORDER FOR HER TO BE DEFEATED I WILL REQUIRE THE ASSISTANCE OF ONE OF YOUR NUMBER.
ANYONE IN PARTICULAR, OR WILL ANY WARM BODY DO?

I AM IN NEED OF THE SERVICES OF THE TELEPATH, PROF. X.

IN THAT REGARD WE CAN'T HELP YOU, TITAN.
PROF X WAS MIND BLASTED INTO A COMA BY MOONDRAGON AT AVENGERS HEAD-QUARTERS.

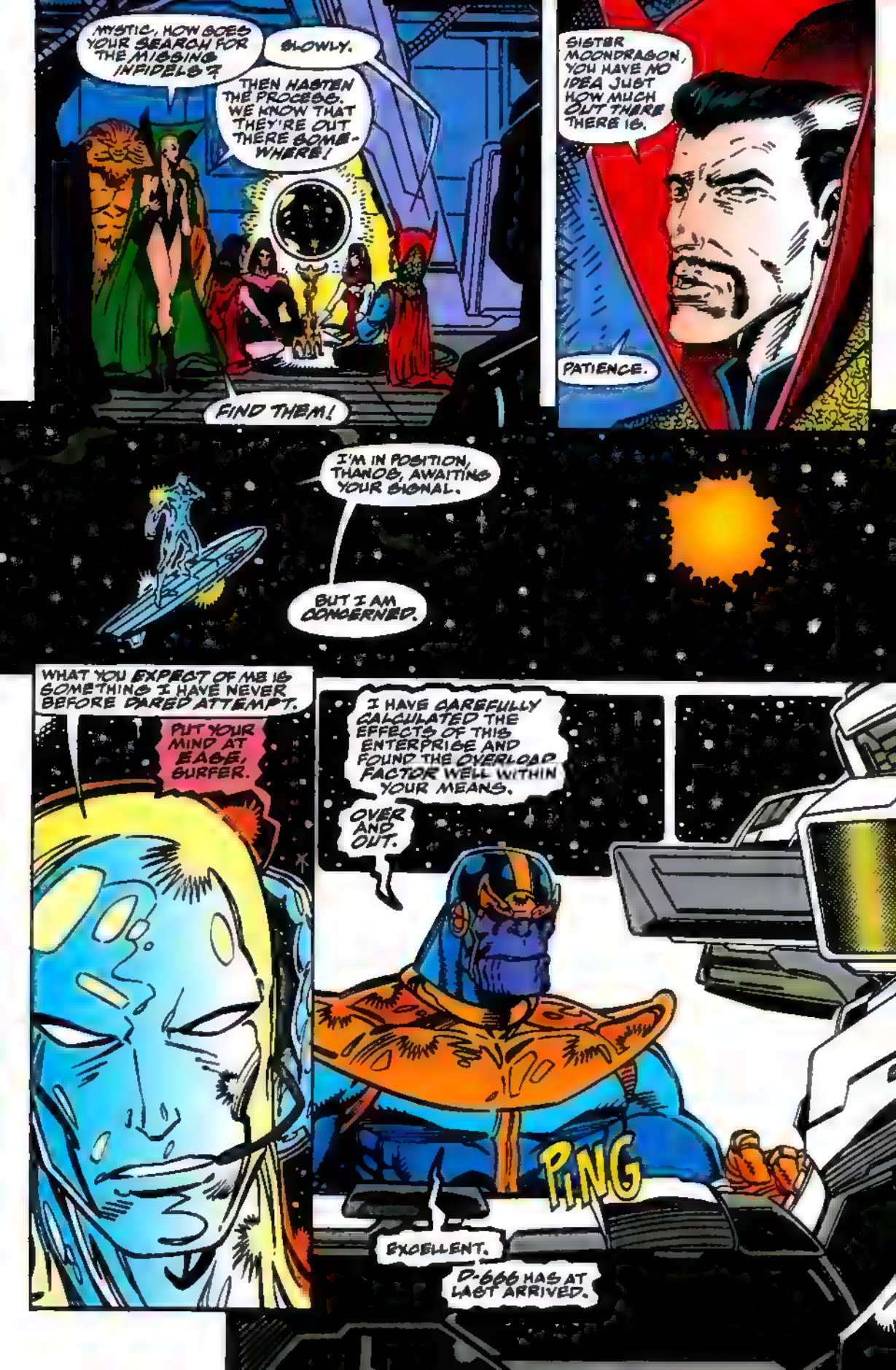
A PITY, BUT IT CHANGES NOTHING.
THE DIVERSION YOU SPOKE OF?
YOU WILL FIND I HAVE TRANSFERRED DETAILS ON HOW TO PROPERLY EXPLOIT IT WITHIN YOUR COMPUTER.

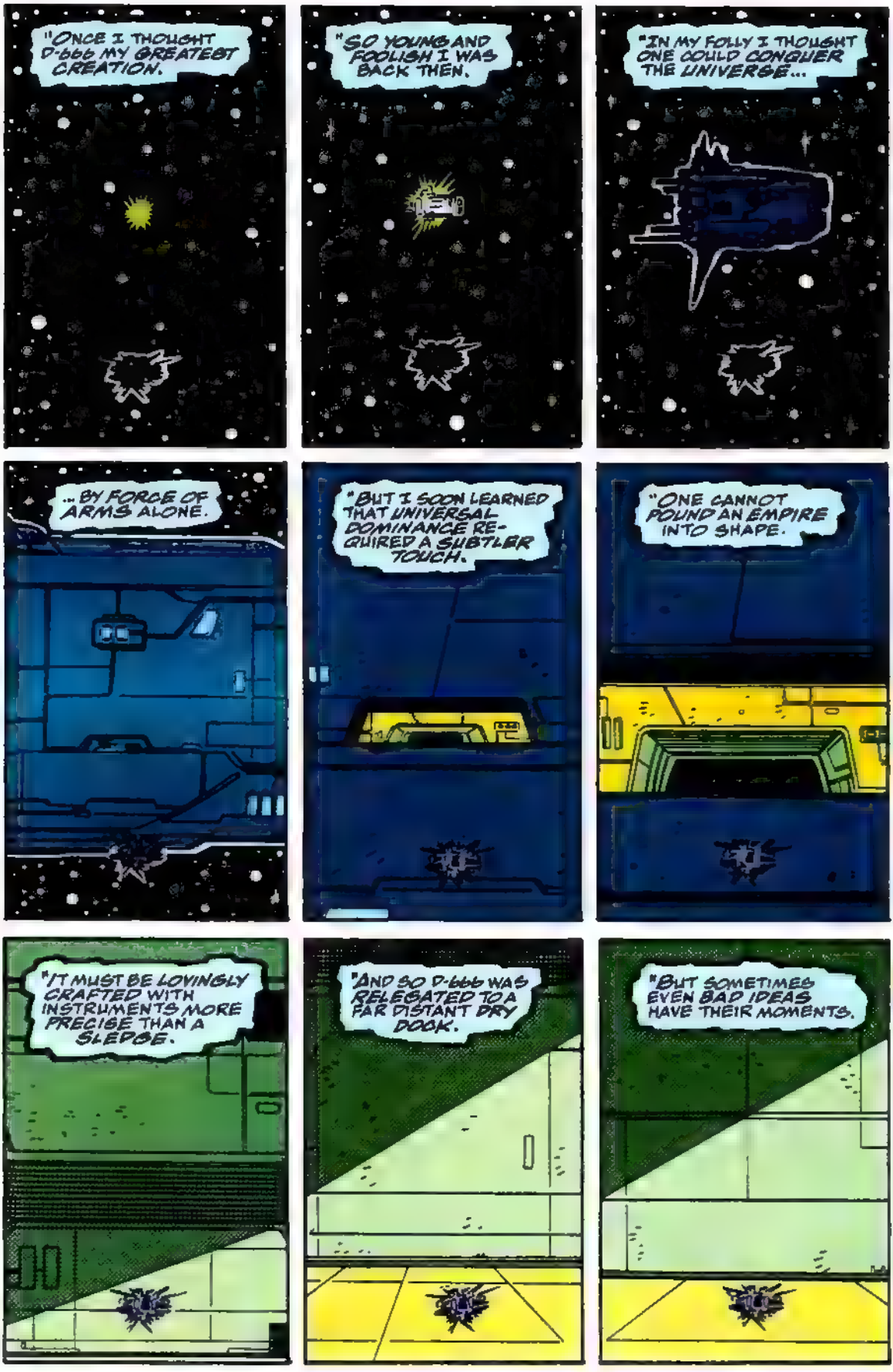
BUT WHEN CAN WE EXPECT--
SOON.
WAIT!
I HATE DEALING WITH THAT CREATURE.
BUT HE SAID THE PROFESSOR BEING CATATONIC DIDN'T MATTER TO HIM!
GOOD LORD.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THE PROFESSOR NOW, CYCLOPS.
WE DARE NOT BREAK LONG-RANGE RADIO SILENCE TO WARN THEM BACK AT...
AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS...
HOW'S THE GUARD DUTY GOIN', PAL?
WHAT YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
I DID NOT SAY.
BUT YOU MAY CALL ME BISHOP.
YOU MUST BE NEW WITH THE X-MEN. I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING YOU--
HOLY COW!
FROST. X-!
WHERE??


AN IMPRESSIVE LONG-RANGED TELE-PORTATION SYSTEM YOU HAVE THERE, TITAN.
IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE JOB AT HAND.
THAT HEADSET YOU PLACE ON THE PROFESSOR?
WILL ALLOW ME TO PERSONALLY EXPLOIT HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS.
WITHOUT CAUSING HIM INJURY?
THANOS OF TITAN ONLY INJURES THOSE HE WISHES TO HARM.
YOU DON'T FIND PLAYING THE HERO ALL THAT COMFORT-ABLE, DO YOU?
ME, THE HERO?
I NOW WEAR WARLOCK'S SOUL GEM.
THROUGH IT, YOU AND ITS FORMER GUARDIAN ONCE MERGED SOULS.
AN UNSETTLING BUT ENLIGHT-ENING ENCOUNTER.
I COULD ARRANGE NOW FOR YOU AND I TO SHARE THAT SAME EXPERIENCE.
WOULD YOU LIKE AN UP-CLOSE VIEW OF THE HEROIC SPIRIT WITHIN ME?
CARE TO PEEK INTO MY SOUL?

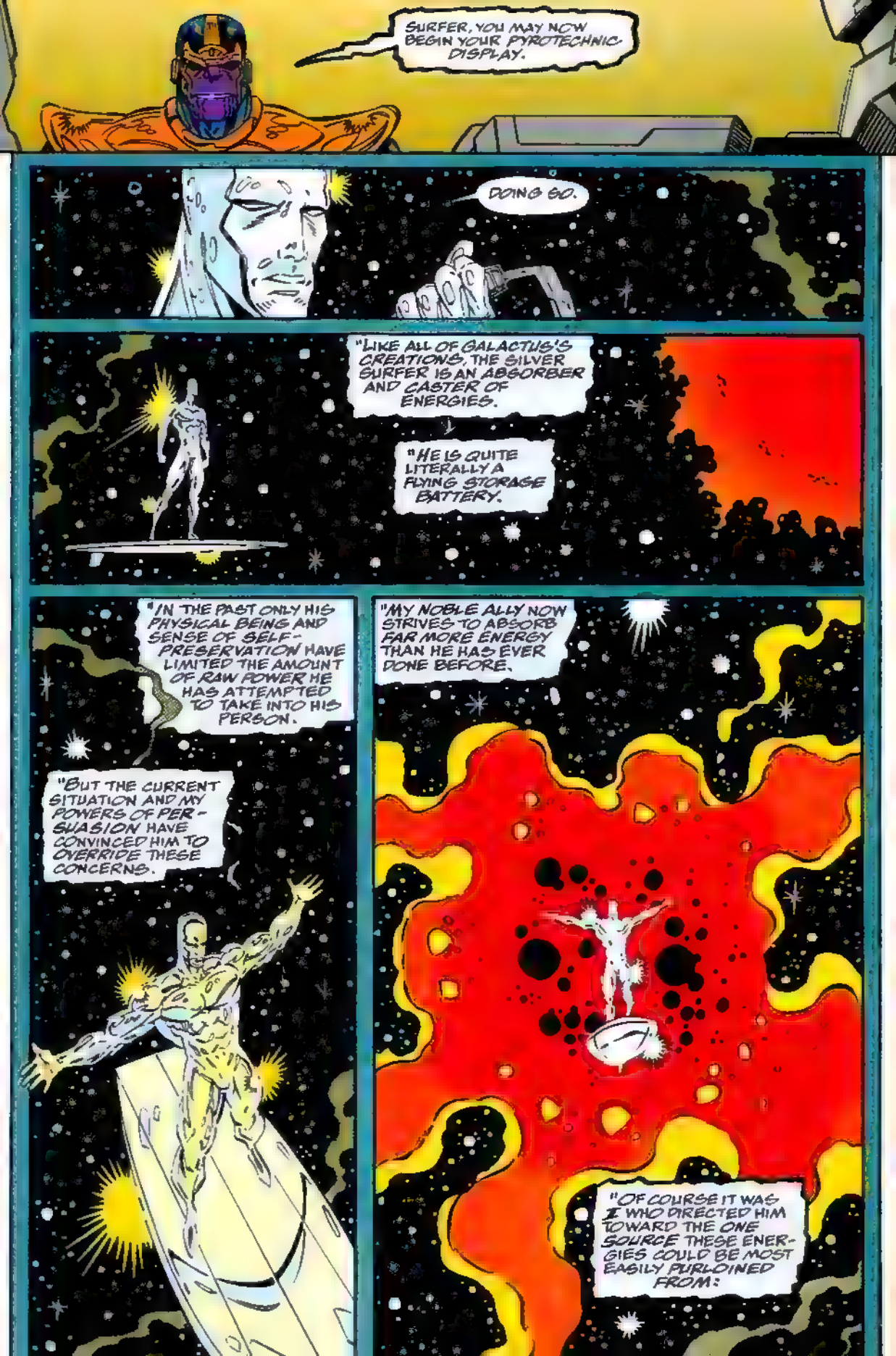
I BELIEVE I WILL PASS ON THAT PARTICULAR OFFER.
I RATHER THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.
THEN PREPARE TO TAKE UP YOUR STATION.
I WILL SIGNAL YOU AS TO WHEN TO BEGIN THE DIVERSION.
AND YOU?
WILL BE WAITING FOR A CERTAIN SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE.
CURSE ME FOR HAVING STORED IT SO FAR FROM THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.
NEW YORK CITY AND THE APARTMENT BUILDING WHERE ONE RICK SHERIDAN RESIDES...
THAT'S WEIRD.
I THOUGHT I WAS OUT OF O.J.
TASTES FUNNY.

AT LAST!
IT WAS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT I HAD THE FORE-SIGHT TO SUPPLY RICK WITH A DOCTORED DOSE OF ORANGE JUICE BEFORE JOINING THE GODDESS'S FOLLOWERS.
OTHERWISE SLEEPWALKER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REJOIN THE FLOCK!
I RETURN TO YOU, MY GODDESS!
AND JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, SLEEPWALKER!
THE HOLY CAUSE IS IN NEED OF YOUR BIZARRE TALENTS!
OUR ENEMIES NEAR AND MUST BE DESTROYED!

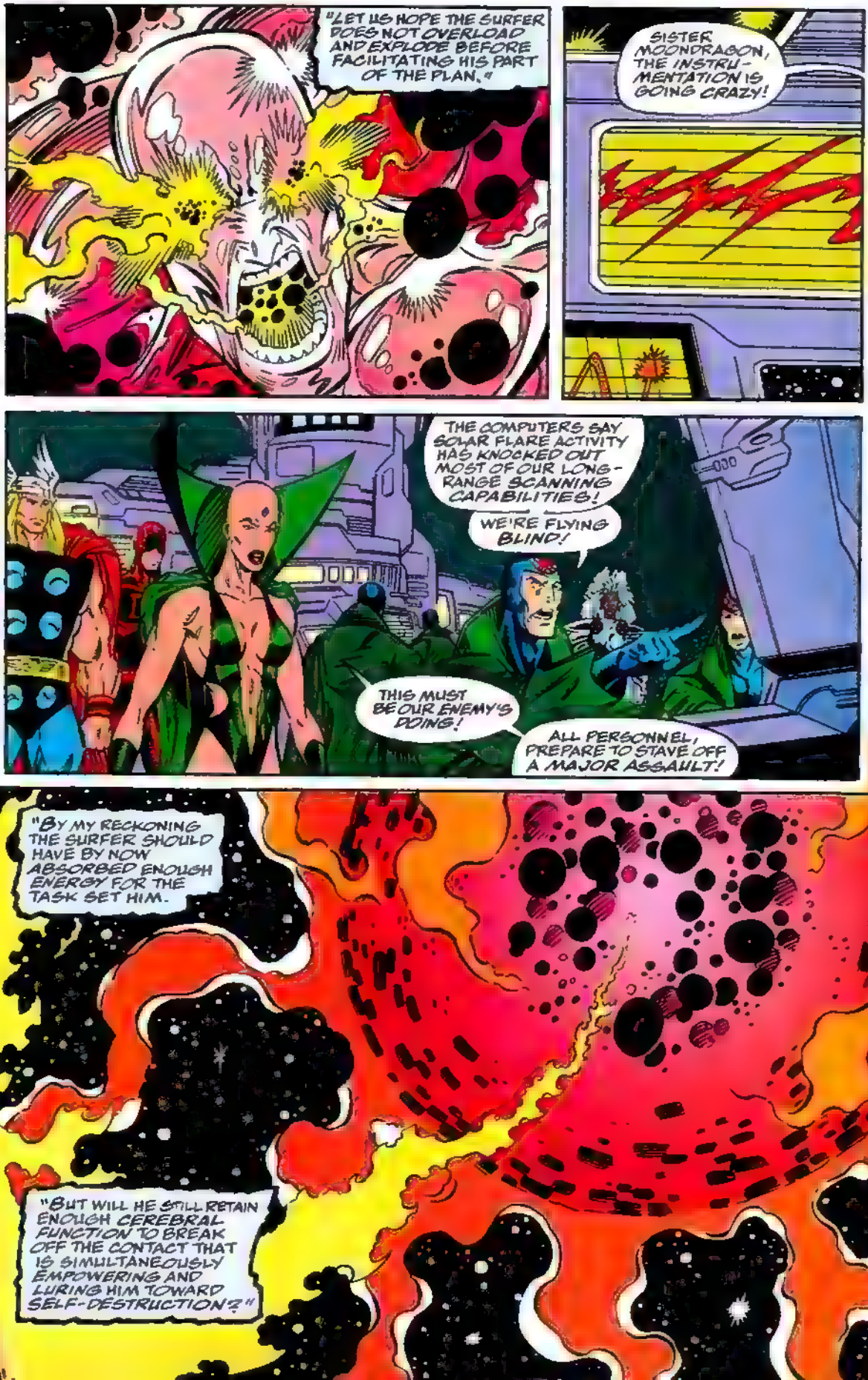

MYSTIC, HOW GOES YOUR SEARCH FOR THE MISSING INFIDELS?
SLOWLY.
THEN HASTEN THE PROCESS. WE KNOW THAT THEY'RE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE!
FIND THEM!
SISTER MOONDRAGON, YOU HAVE NO IDEA JUST HOW MUCH OUT THERE THERE IS.
PATIENCE.
I'M IN POSITION, THANOS, AWAITING YOUR SIGNAL.
BUT I AM CONCERNED.
WHAT YOU EXPECT OF ME IS SOMETHING I HAVE NEVER BEFORE DARED ATTEMPT.
PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, SURFER.
I HAVE CAREFULLY CALCULATED THE EFFECTS OF THIS ENTERPRISE AND FOUND THE OVERLOAD FACTOR WELL WITHIN YOUR MEANS.
OVER AND OUT.
PING
EXCELLENT.
D-666 HAS AT LAST ARRIVED.

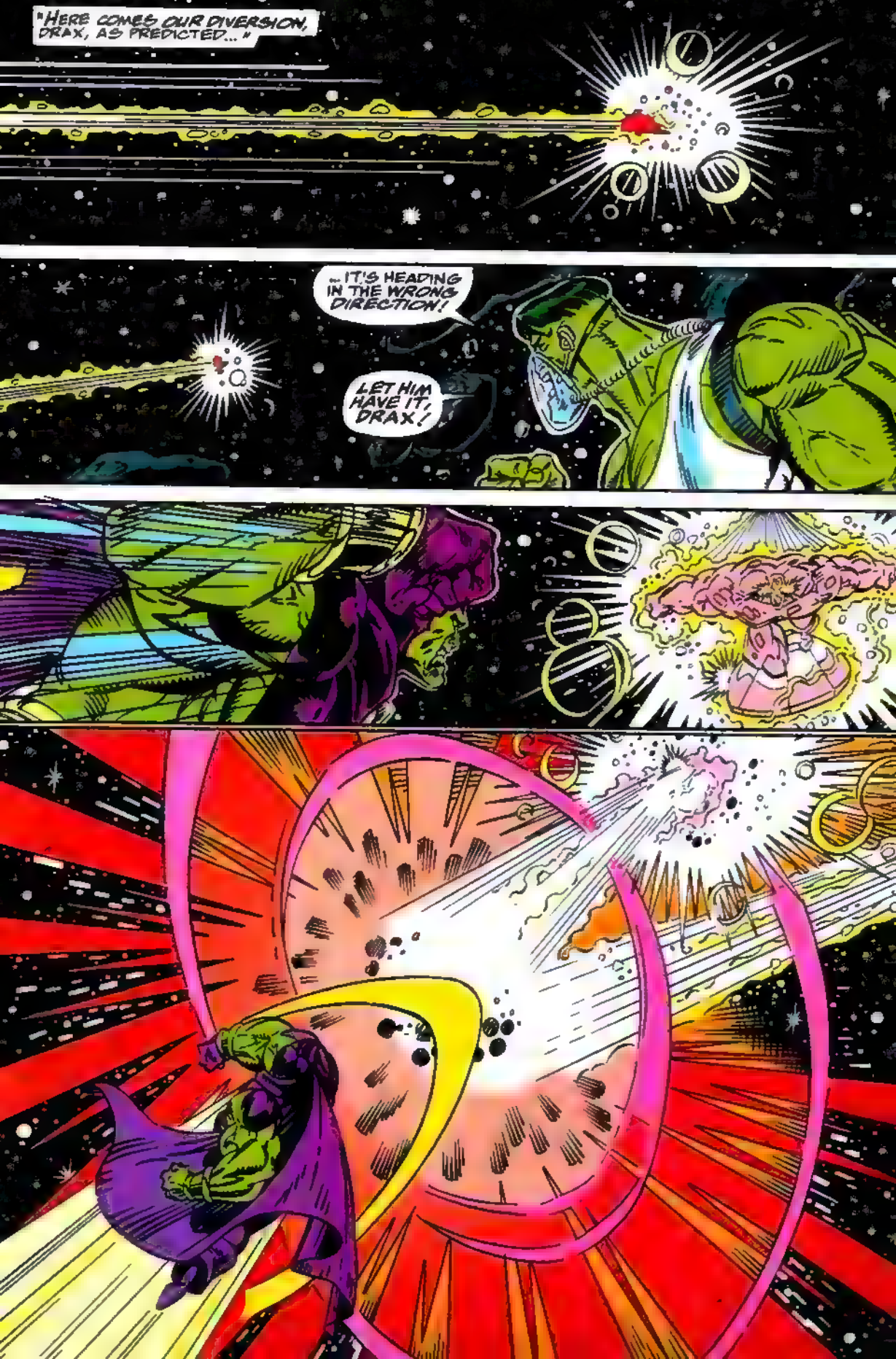

"ONCE I THOUGHT D-666 MY GREATEST CREATION.
"SO YOUNG AND FOOLISH I WAS BACK THEN.
"IN MY FOLLY I THOUGHT ONE COULD CONQUER THE UNIVERSE...
...BY FORCE OF ARMS ALONE.
"BUT I SOON LEARNED THAT UNIVERSAL DOMINANCE REQUIRED A SUBTLER TOUCH.
"ONE CANNOT POUND AN EMPIRE INTO SHAPE.
"IT MUST BE LOVINGLY CRAFTED WITH INSTRUMENTS MORE PRECISE THAN A SLEDGE.
"AND SO D-666 WAS RELEGATED TO A FAR DISTANT DRY DOCK.
"BUT SOMETIMES EVEN BAD IDEAS HAVE THEIR MOMENTS.

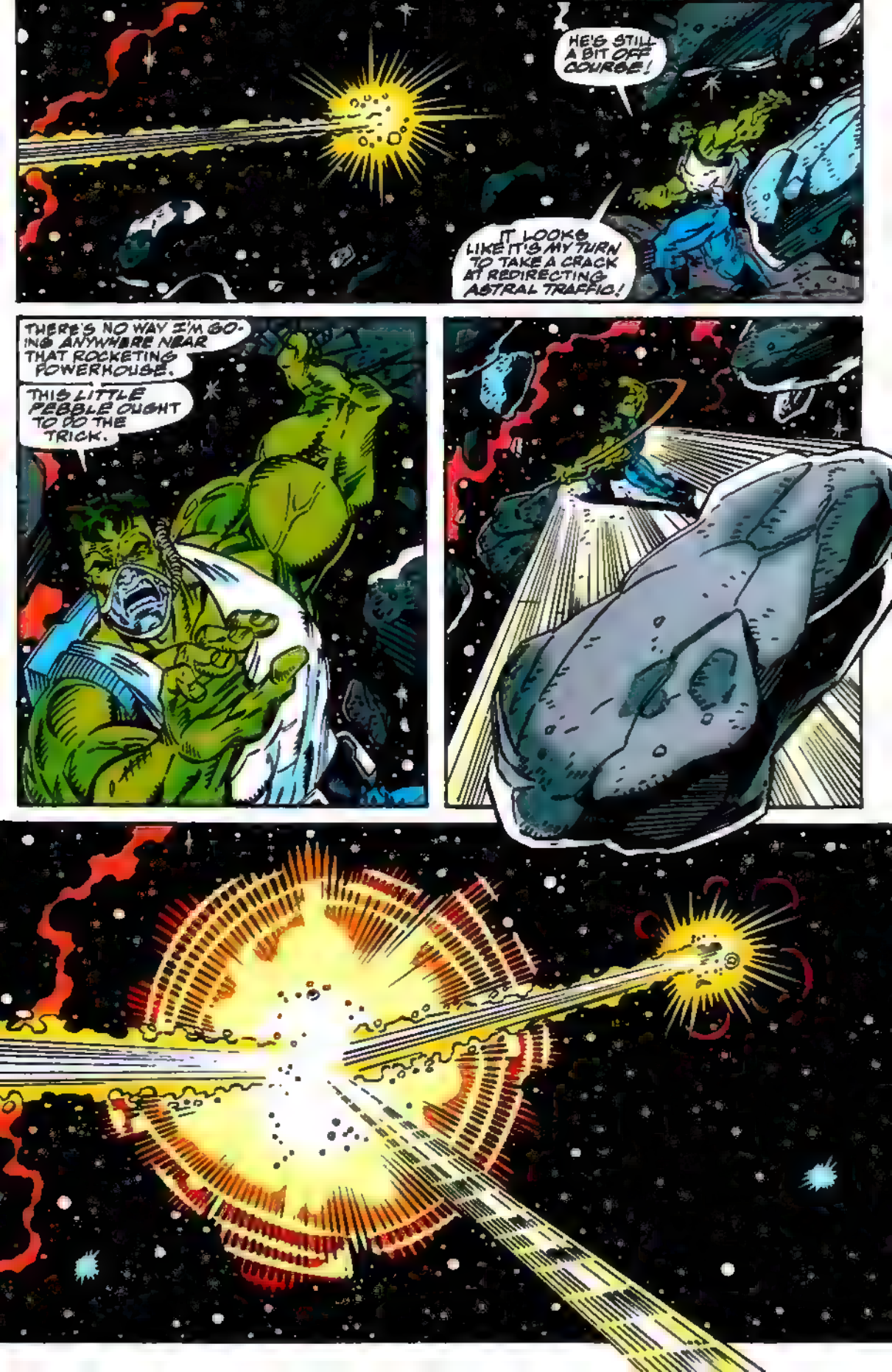
"I HAVE A FEELING THAT **DREADNAUGHT 666** IS JUST WHAT I NEED TO CARRY OUT MY PART OF ADAM WARLOCK'S PLAN."

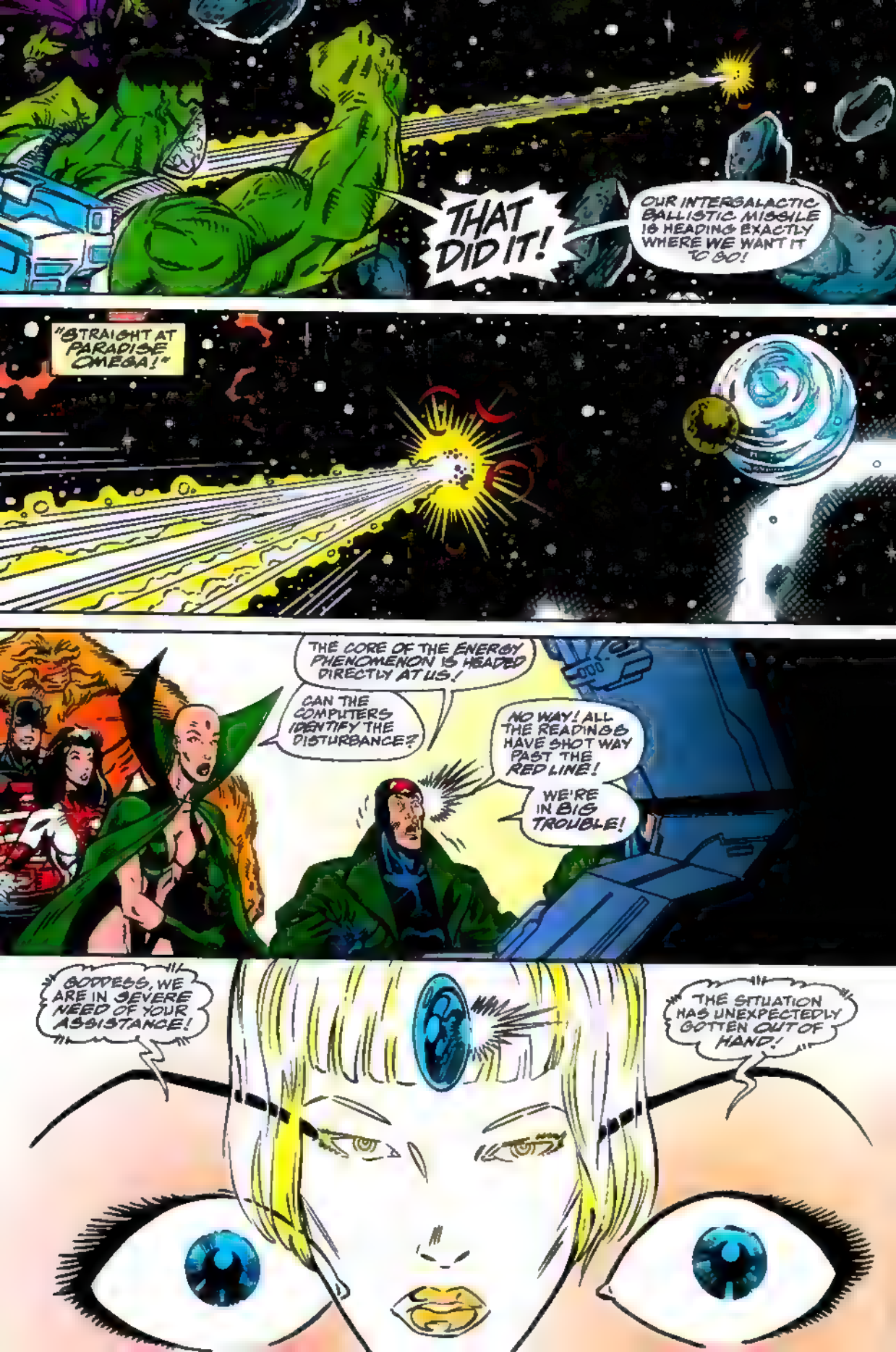

SURFER, YOU MAY NOW BEGIN YOUR PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY.
DOING SO.
"LIKE ALL OF GALACTUS'S CREATIONS, THE SILVER SURFER IS AN ABSORBER AND CASTER OF ENERGIES.
"HE IS QUITE LITERALLY A FLYING STORAGE BATTERY.
"IN THE PAST ONLY HIS PHYSICAL BEING AND SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION HAVE LIMITED THE AMOUNT OF RAW POWER HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE INTO HIS PERSON.
"BUT THE CURRENT SITUATION AND MY POWERS OF PERSUASION HAVE CONVINCED HIM TO OVERRIDE THESE CONCERNS.
"MY NOBLE ALLY NOW STRIVES TO ABSORB FAR MORE ENERGY THAN HE HAS EVER DONE BEFORE.
"OF COURSE IT WAS I WHO DIRECTED HIM TOWARD THE ONE SOURCE THESE ENERGIES COULD BE MOST EASILY PURLOINED FROM:

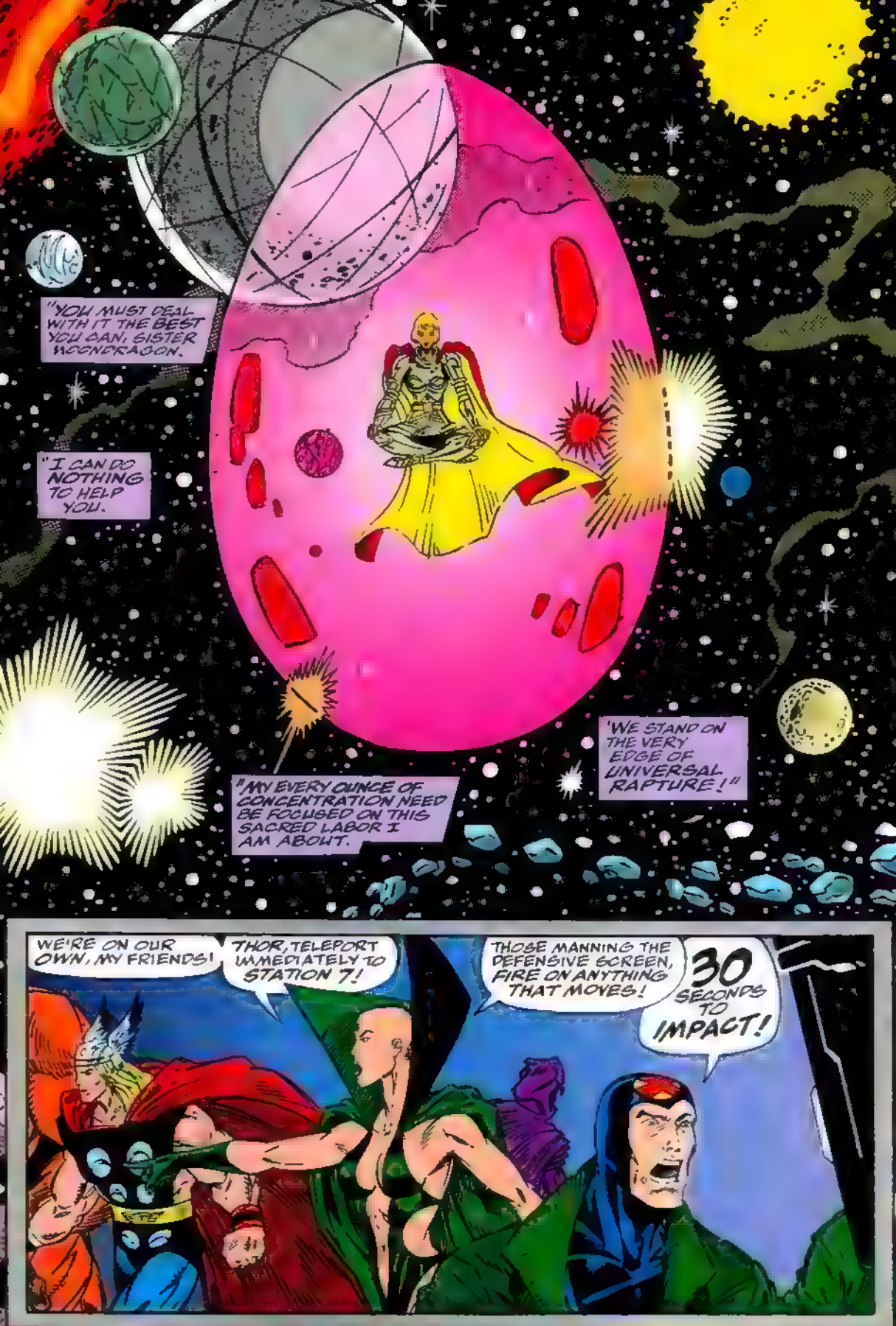
"THIS SOLAR SYSTEM'S STAR, SOL."
PROF. RICHARDS, THE SCANNERS ARE PICKING UP ENORMOUS SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE NATURAL.
THIS HAS TO BE THANOS'S DIVERSION!
Q#1 TO BANNER!
DO YOU SEE IT FROM YOUR POSITION?
I SURE DO!
WHEN THANOS SETS UP A DIVERSION HE GOES ALL OUT, DOESN'T HE?
"PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE REALLY CALCULATED THE EFFECTS THIS MANEUVER MIGHT PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HAVE ON THE SURFER.
"I WAS PRESSED FOR TIME.
"OF COURSE NOW I HOPE THAT DOES NOT PROVE TO BE A DISASTROUS MISCALCULATION.

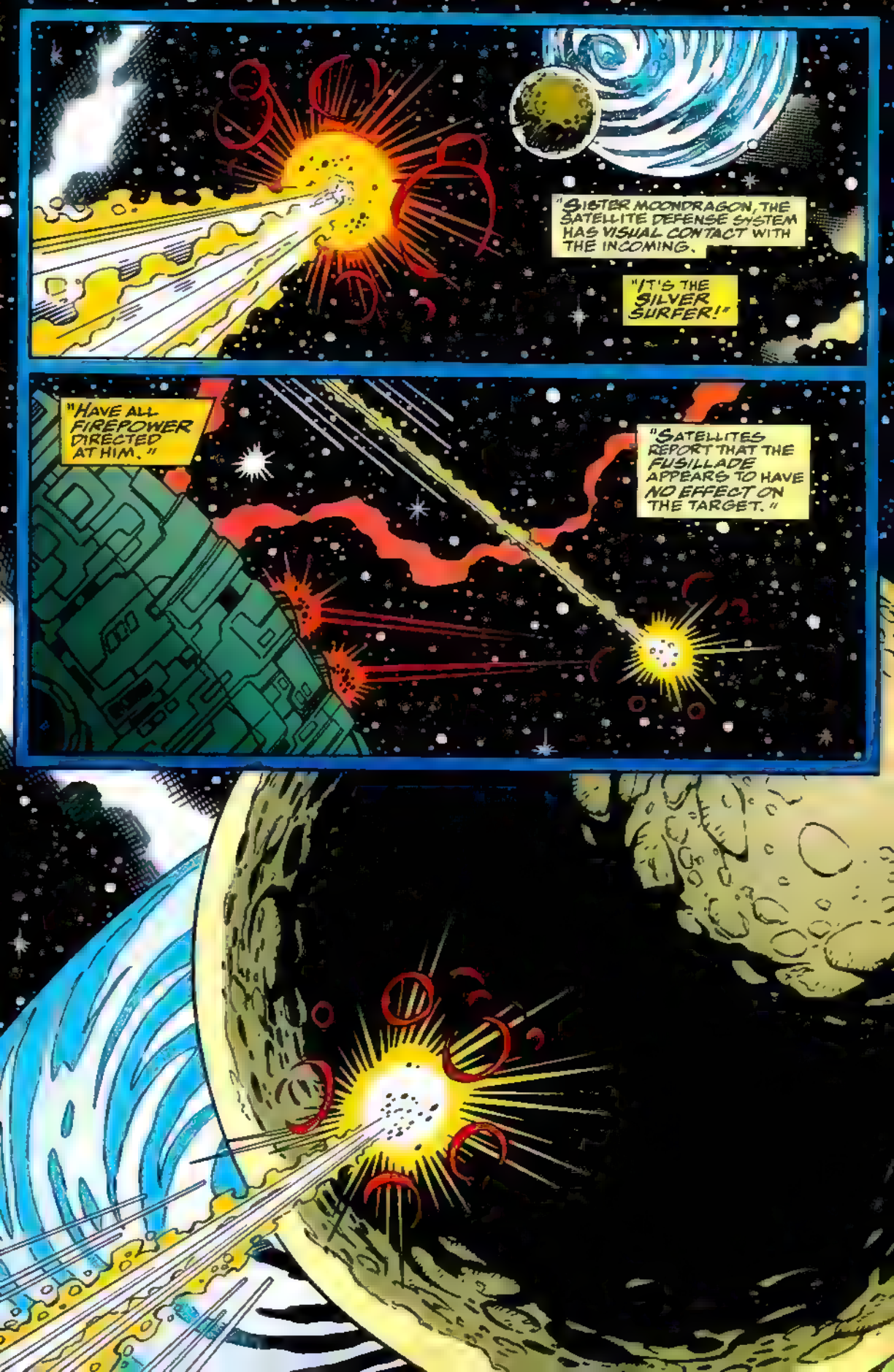

"LET US HOPE THE SURFER DOES NOT OVERLOAD AND EXPLODE BEFORE FACILITATING HIS PART OF THE PLAN."
SISTER MOONDRAGON, THE INSTRUMENTATION IS GOING CRAZY!
THE COMPUTERS SAY SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY HAS KNOCKED OUT MOST OF OUR LONG-RANGE SCANNING CAPABILITIES!
WE'RE FLYING BLIND!
THIS MUST BE OUR ENEMY'S DOING!
ALL PERSONNEL, PREPARE TO STAVE OFF A MAJOR ASSAULT!
"BY MY RECKONING THE SURFER SHOULD HAVE BY NOW ABSORBED ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THE TASK SET HIM.
"BUT WILL HE STILL RETAIN ENOUGH CEREBRAL FUNCTION TO BREAK OFF THE CONTACT THAT IS SIMULTANEOUSLY EMPOWERING AND LURING HIM TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION?"

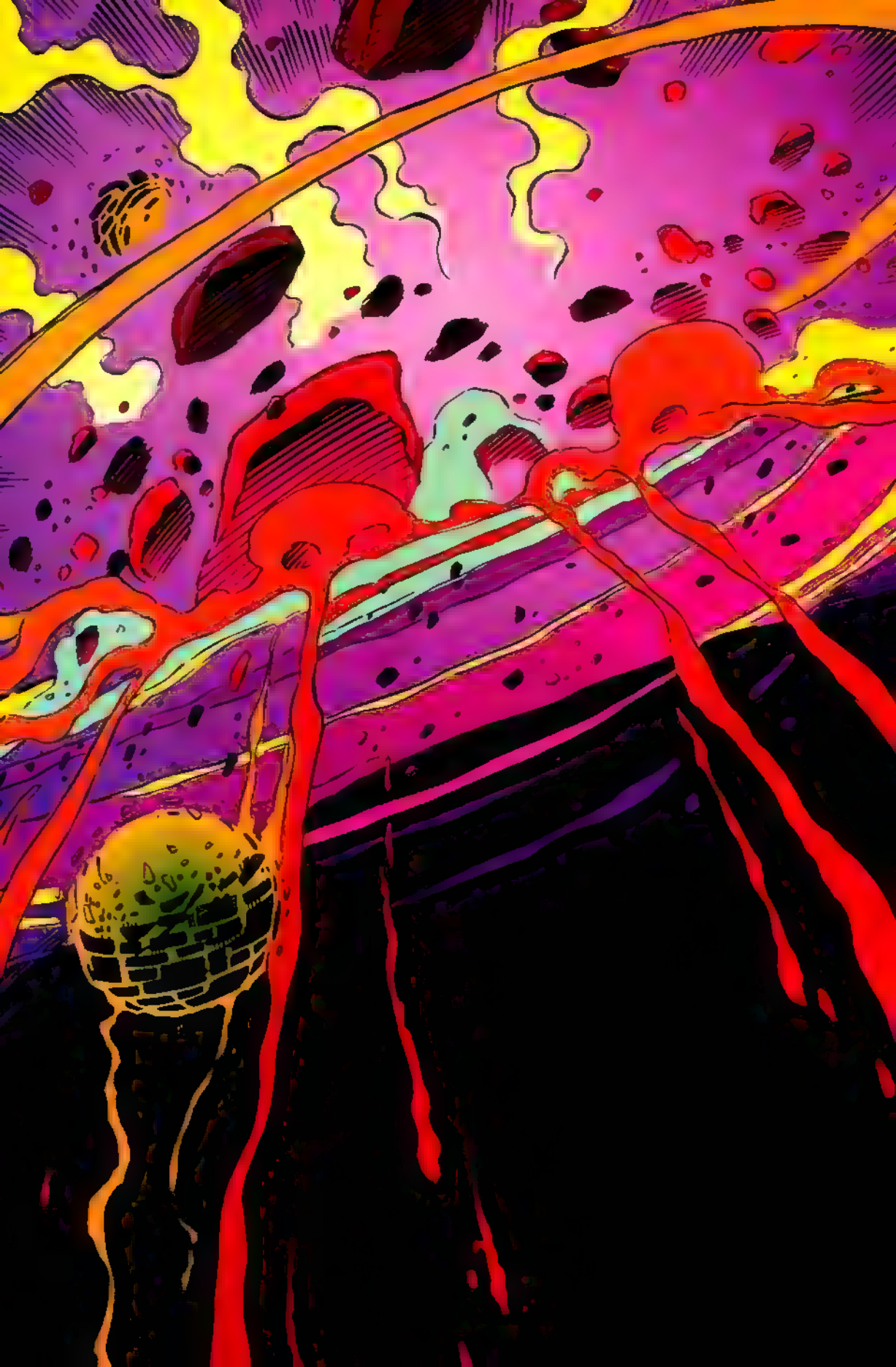

"HERE COMES OUR DIVERSION, DRAX, AS PREDICTED..."
...IT'S HEADING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!
LET HIM HAVE IT, DRAX!

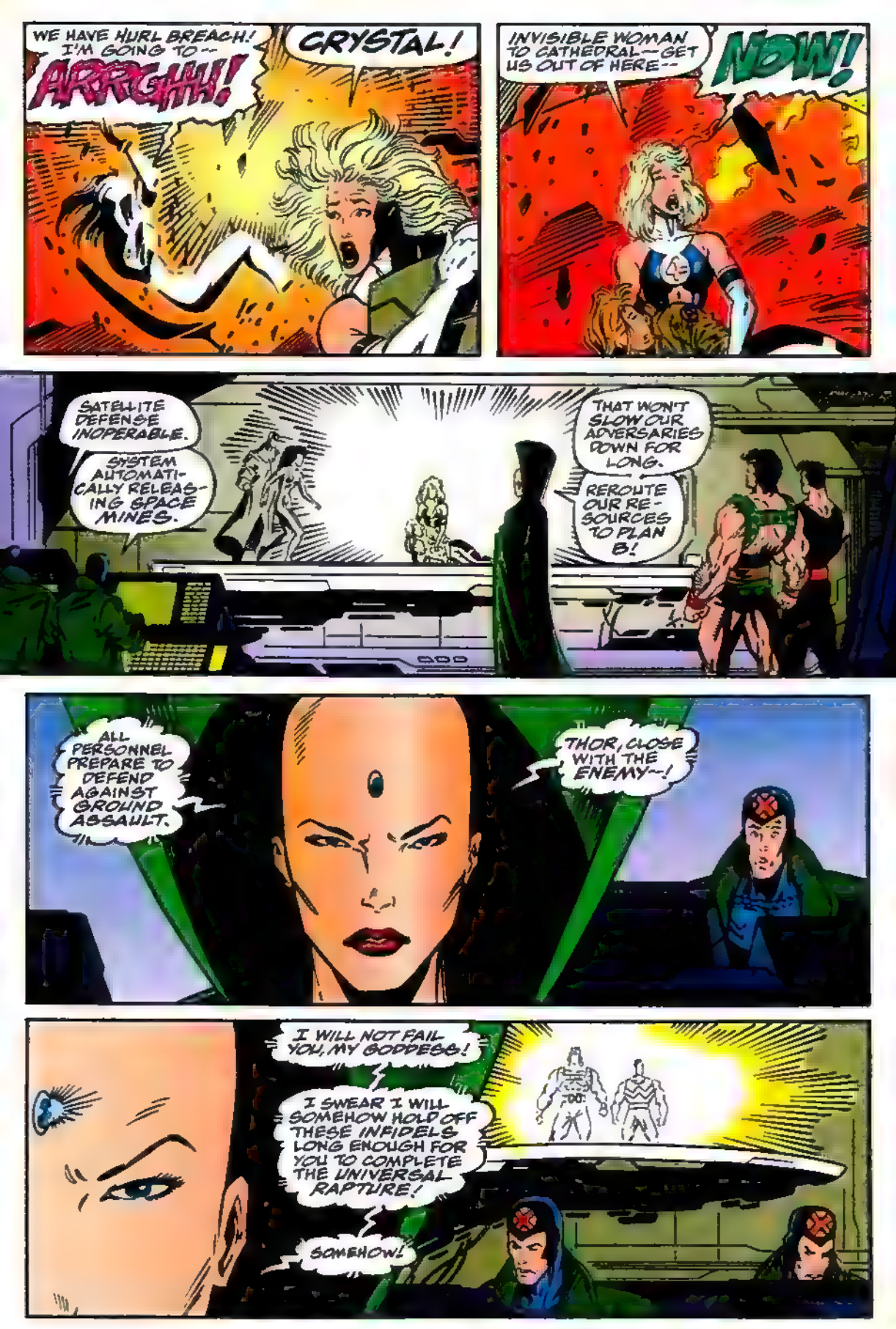

HE'S STILL A BIT OFF COURSE!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY TURN TO TAKE A CRACK AT REDIRECTING ASTRAL TRAFFIC!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT ROCKETING POWERHOUSE.
THIS LITTLE PEBBLE OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.


THAT DID IT!
OUR INTERGALACTIC BALLISTIC MISSILE IS HEADING EXACTLY WHERE WE WANT IT TO GO!
"STRAIGHT AT PARADISE OMEGA!"
THE CORE OF THE ENERGY PHENOMENON IS HEADED DIRECTLY AT US!
CAN THE COMPUTERS IDENTIFY THE DISTURBANCE?
NO WAY! ALL THE READINGS HAVE SHOT WAY PAST THE RED LINE!
WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
GODDESS, WE ARE IN SEVERE NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE!
THE SITUATION HAS UNEXPECTEDLY GOTTEN OUT OF HAND!

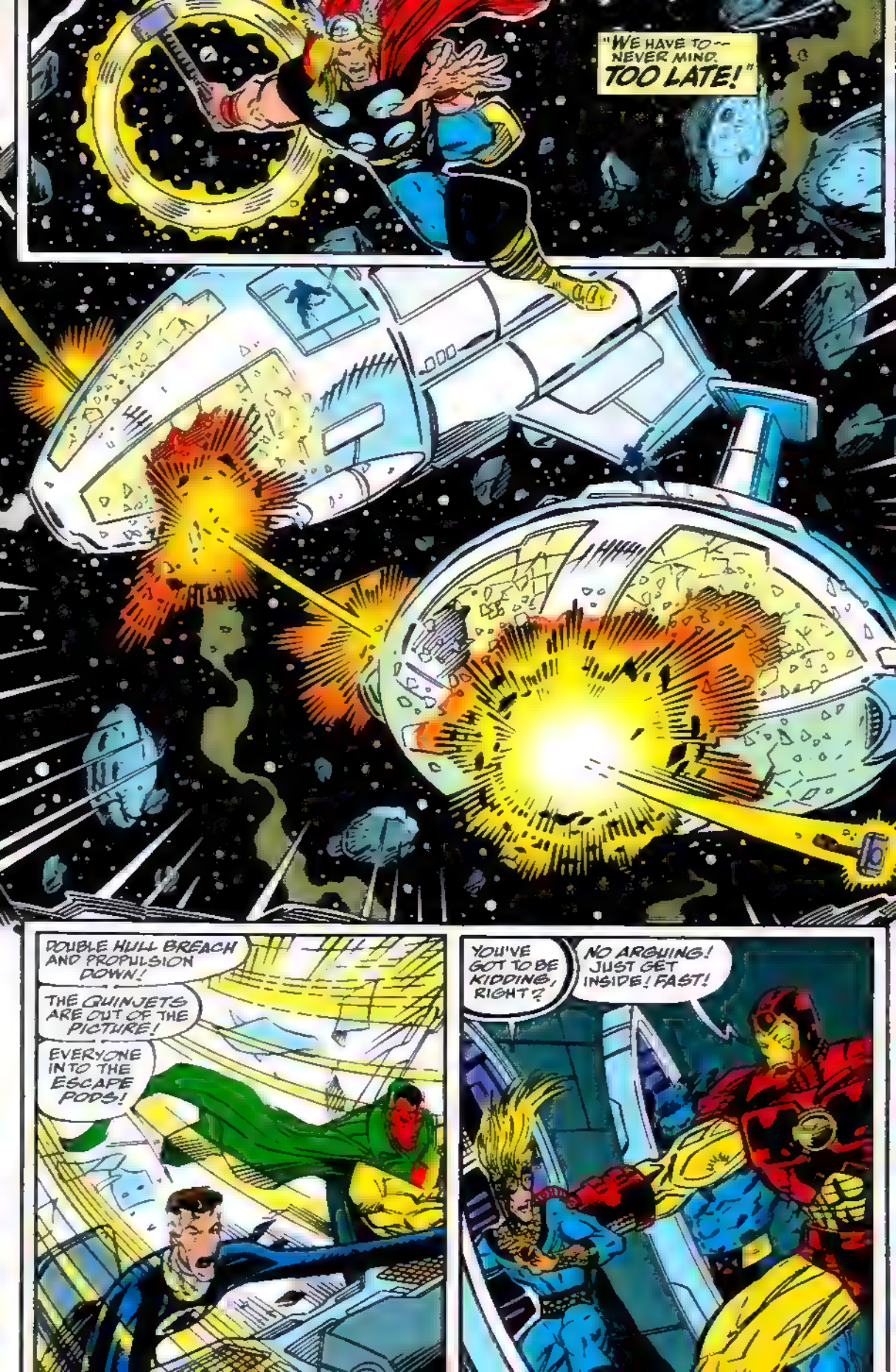

"YOU MUST DEAL WITH IT THE BEST YOU CAN, SISTER MOONDRAGON.
"I CAN DO NOTHING TO HELP YOU.
"MY EVERY OUNCE OF CONCENTRATION NEED BE FOCUSED ON THIS SACRED LABOR I AM ABOUT.
'WE STAND ON THE VERY EDGE OF UNIVERSAL RAPTURE!"
WE'RE ON OUR OWN, MY FRIENDS!
THOR, TELEPORT IMMEDIATELY TO STATION 7!
THOSE MANNING THE DEFENSIVE SCREEN, FIRE ON ANYTHING THAT MOVES!
30 SECONDS TO IMPACT!


"SISTER MOONDRAGON, THE SATELLITE DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE INCOMING.
"IT'S THE SILVER SURFER!"
"HAVE ALL FIREPOWER DIRECTED AT HIM."
"SATELLITES REPORT THAT THE FUSILLADE APPEARS TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE TARGET."




WE HAVE HURL BREACH! I'M GOING TO--
ARRGHH!
CRYSTAL!
INVISIBLE WOMAN TO CATHEDRAL--GET US OUT OF HERE--
NOW!
SATELLITE DEFENSE INOPERABLE.
SYSTEM AUTOMATICALLY RELEASING SPACE MINES.
THAT WON'T SLOW OUR ADVERSARIES DOWN FOR LONG.
REROUTE OUR RESOURCES TO PLAN B!
ALL PERSONNEL PREPARE TO DEFEND AGAINST GROUND ASSAULT.
THOR, CLOSE WITH THE ENEMY--!
I WILL NOT FAIL YOU, MY GODDESS!
I SWEAR I WILL SOMEHOW HOLD OFF THESE INFIDELS LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO COMPLETE THE UNIVERSAL RAPTURE!
SOMEHOW!

"HOW LONG BEFORE YOU FINISH CLEARING A PATH THROUGH THE MINE FIELD, HAVOK?"
WHAT SHOULD I TELL THE MAN, CYCLOPS?
INFORM HIM THAT THE JOB IS DONE, BROTHER, AND HE CAN TAKE US IN!
HEY, IT'S MR. SURFER!
STRANGE PLACE TO NAP.
NEVER MIND HIM. WE GOT A MAJOR PROBLEM OVER THAT WAY!
THAT'S THE THUNDER GOD--
THOR!
AND HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE QUINJETS!

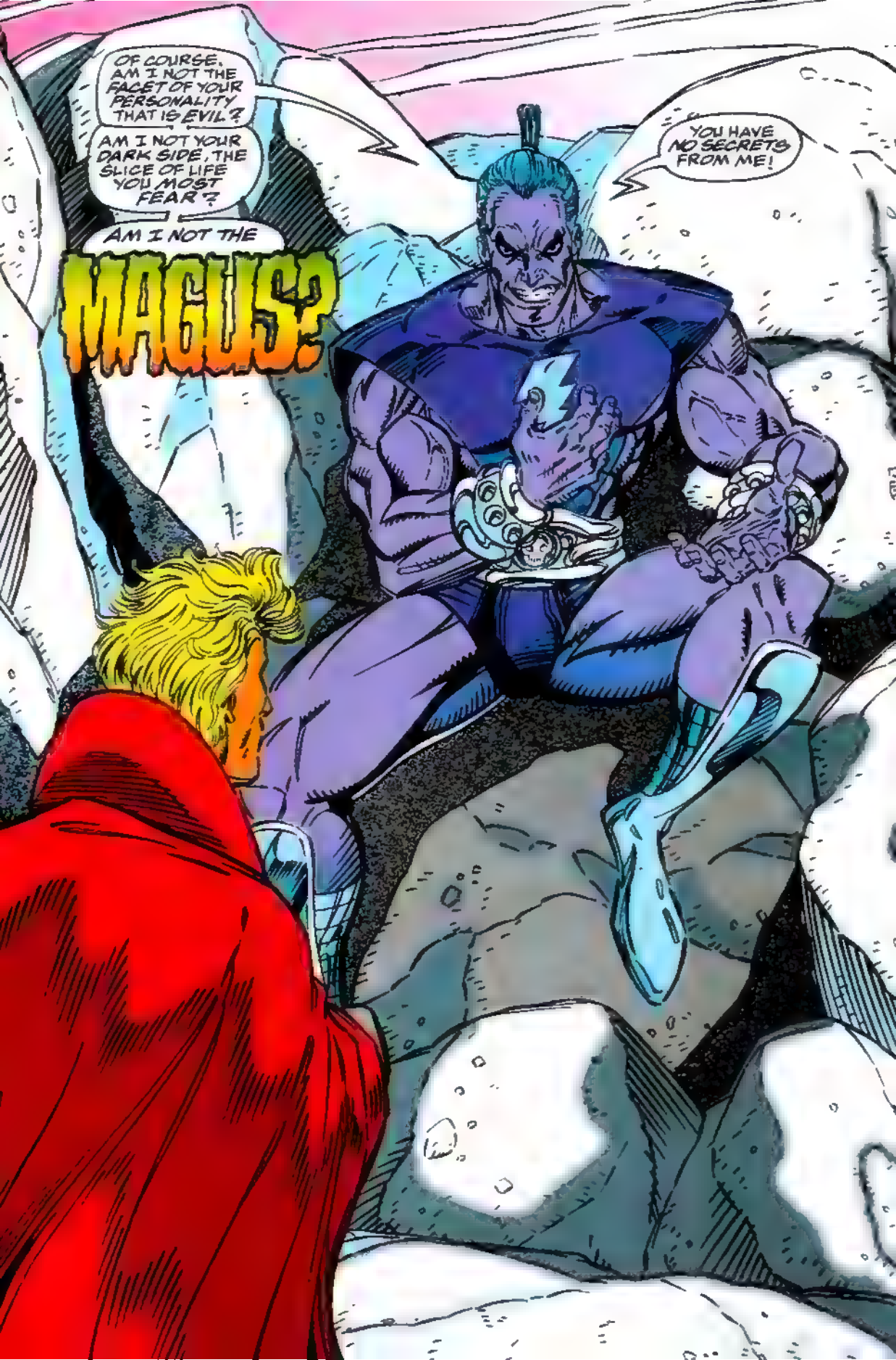

"WE HAVE TO-- NEVER MIND. TOO LATE!"
DOUBLE HULL BREACH AND PROPULSION DOWN!
THE QUINJETS ARE OUT OF THE PICTURE!
EVERYONE INTO THE ESCAPE PODS!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, RIGHT?
NO ARGUING! JUST GET INSIDE! FAST!

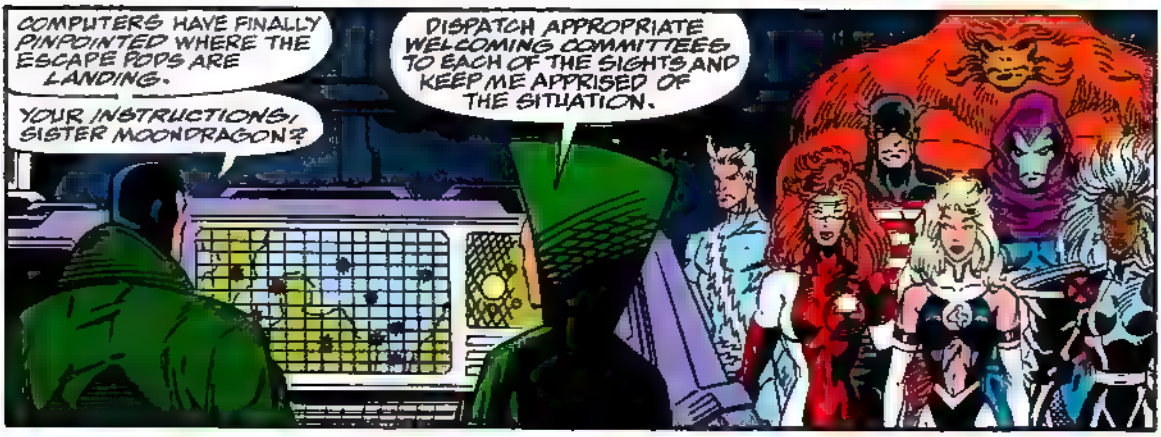
TIME TO CURB YOUR HAMMER TOSSING HOSTILE WAYS, BLONDIE!
YEAH, DRAX'S FRIENDS INSIDE THEM LIL' SCOOTERS!
WHAT MADNESS BE THIS?!

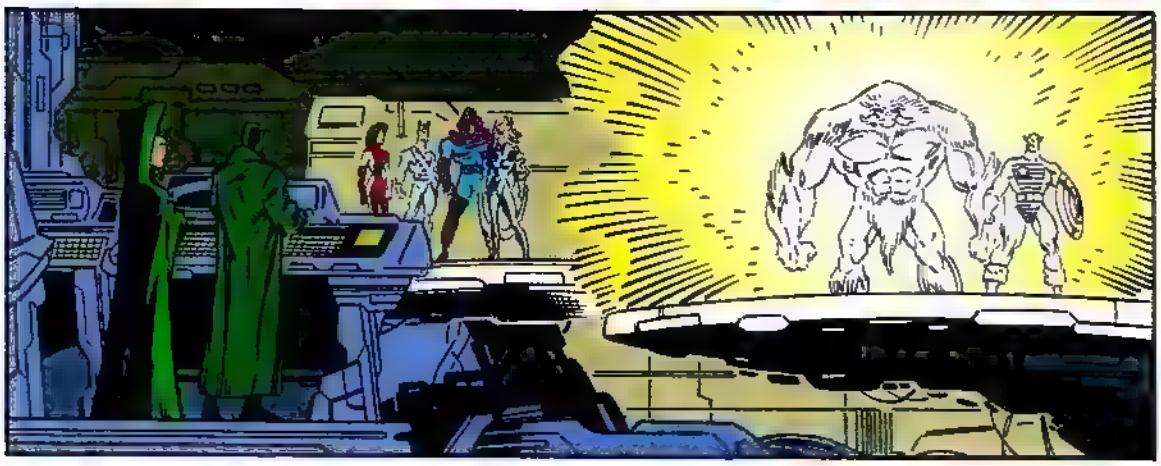
NO INFIDEL CUR SHALL STAY MIGHTY THOR'S HAND!
DON'T BET MONEY ON IT, SLICK!
THE LAST TIME WE TANGLED, I NEARLY CLEANED YOUR CLOCK!
NOW WITH DRAX ON MY SIDE, YOU'RE HISTORY!
HEY!
HE DESTROYED MY MINI-PROPULSION UNIT!
I'M DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE FIGHT!
DRAX!
DRAX!
DRAX!
DRAX!

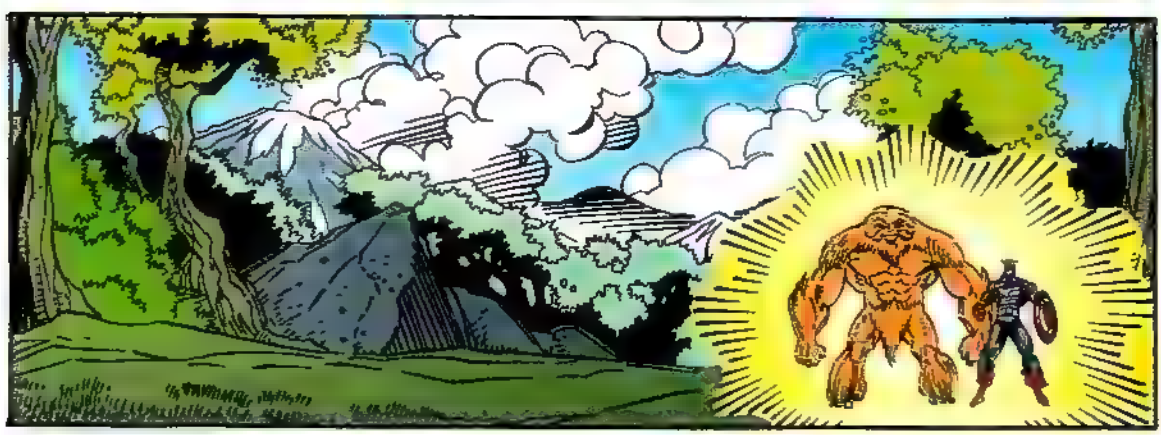
WE MADE IT, GANG!
NOW EVERYONE BEELINE TO YOUR DESIGNATED LANDING SIGHTS!
NOT EVERY-ONE.
WHO?
THANOS OF TITAN. I REQUIRE ONE OF YOUR PODS TO MAINTAIN A TWO THOUSAND METER ALTITUDE AT PRESENT.
WHY?
THE DEBRIS FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF PARADISE OMEGA'S MOON HAS MADE LONG-RANGE SCANNING OF THE PLANET NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
I NEED THIS CAPABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH MY PART OF THE GODDESS'S DOWN-FALL.
RELAYING A SCAN SIGNAL THROUGH AN ESCAPE POD'S COM-SYSTEM WILL RECTIFY THE SITUATION.
SHOULD WE COOPERATE WITH THE TITAN? DO WE DARE TRUST HIM?
HIS UNEXPECTED AID HAS GOTTEN US THIS FAR.
FORGE, MAINTAIN YOUR POD AT THE REQUESTED ALTITUDE.
WILL DO.

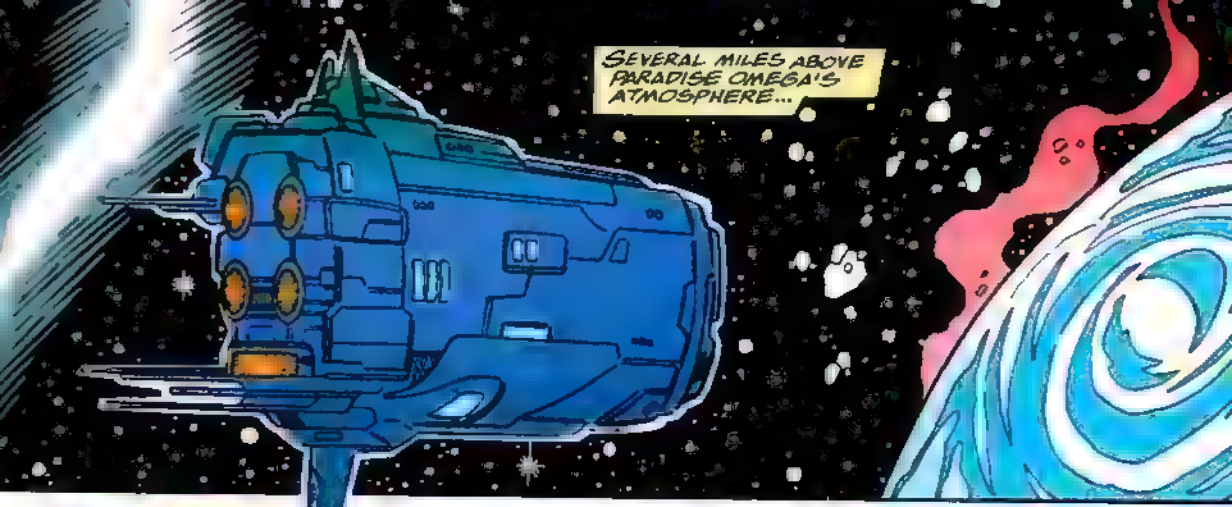
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE IT!
WE'RE JUST GETTING LEFT OUT OF THE FUN BECAUSE WE AIN'T GOT FANCY SUPER POWERS LIKE THE REST OF THEM DUDES!
MY LINK WITH HIM DIRECTS ME THIS WAY.
BUT STILL I WONDER, IS MY MISSION HERE SHEER FOLLY?
SURELY HE WILL NOT CONSENT TO AID ME IN THE COMING CONFLICT.
HIS HATRED FOR ME IS FAR GREATER THAN HIS LOVE FOR THE UNIVERSE.
YET MY MYSTIC SENSES WARN ME THAT WITHOUT THIS MEETING THE CHANCES OF MY BESTING THE GODDESS ARE SLIM IF NOT NIL.
I SEE YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING ME.

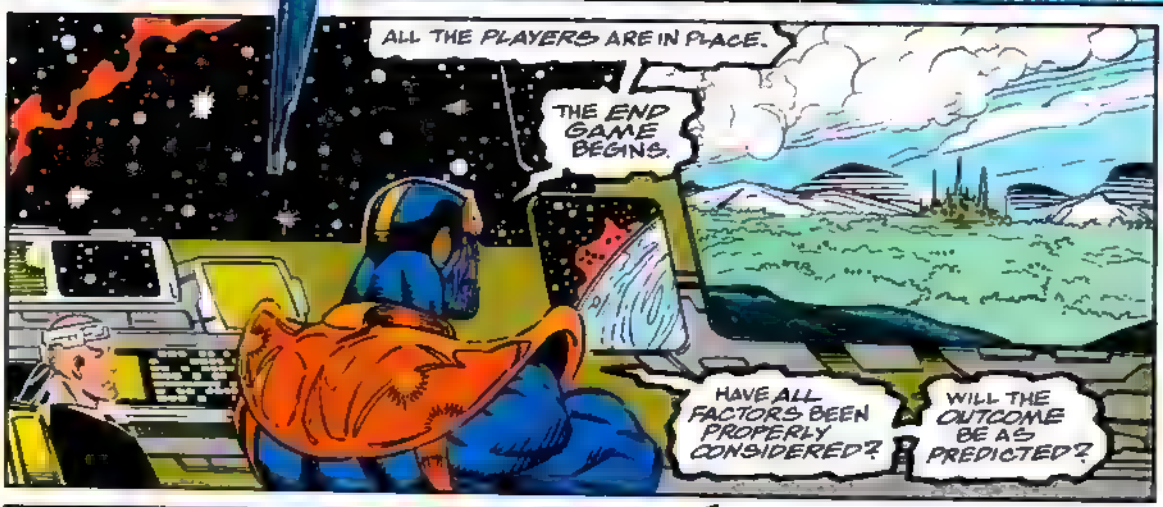

OF COURSE. AM I NOT THE FACET OF YOUR PERSONALITY THAT IS EVIL?
AM I NOT YOUR DARK SIDE, THE SLICE OF LIFE YOU MOST FEAR?
AM I NOT THE
MAGUS?
YOU HAVE NO SECRETS FROM ME!


COMPUTERS HAVE FINALLY PINPOINTED WHERE THE ESCAPE PODS ARE LANDING.
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, SISTER MOONDRAGON?
DISPATCH APPROPRIATE WELCOMING COMMITTEES TO EACH OF THE SIGHTS AND KEEP ME APPRISED OF THE SITUATION.








ALL THE PLAYERS ARE IN PLACE.
THE END GAME BEGINS.
HAVE ALL FACTORS BEEN PROPERLY CONSIDERED?
WILL THE OUTCOME BE AS PREDICTED?

THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION BEGINS TO UNFOLD NEXT WEEK IN...

WARLOCK CHRONICLES #4

THEN THE FULL HORROR OF THE SITUATION IS REVEALED 2 WEEKS LATER IN...

WARLOCK #21

AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK IN...

INFINITY CRUSADE #5

AND--

HOLY WARS

BE SURE TO EXPLORE THE FURTHER RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CRUSADE IN: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #105, SILVER SABLE #17, ALPHA FLIGHT #125 AND DEATHLOK #28...!

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A GIFT FROM THE MAGUS
DIRECT EDITION

NATURE HAS MADE UP HER MIND THAT WHAT CANNOT DEFEND ITSELF SHALL NOT BE DEFENDED.
-- RALPH WALDO EMERSON.
WITHIN THE REALM OF SOUL WORLD...
THE DARK MIRROR
DEAR ADAM, CONTRADICTING EMOTIONS ARE SO DISTRESSING, ARE THEY NOT?
HOW SAD TO HAVE THE JOY OF RETURNING TO A PLACE YOU CONSIDER PARADISE...
...DILUTED BY TREPIDATION OVER CONFRONTING ME, THE MAGUS--- YOUR EVIL SELF!

JIM STARLIN	TOM RANEY	KEITH WILLIAMS	JACK MORELLI	GINA GOING	CRAIG ANDERSON	TOM DeFALCO
CREATOR WRITER	PENCILS	INKS	LETTERS	COLOR	EDITOR	CHIEF

WARLOCK CHRONICLES™ Vol. 1, No. 4, October, 1993. Published by MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC., Terry Stewart, President Stan Lee, Publisher Michael Hobson Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016 **Application to mail at second class postage is pending at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.00 per copy in the U.S. and $2.50 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues $24.00 U.S. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST GST #R127032852 All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. WARLOCK CHRONICLES (including all prominent characters featured in this issue, and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WARLOCK CHRONICLES, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016.** Printed in Canada

TRUE. FACING YOU IS ALMOST AS DIFFICULT AS MY INEVITABLE DEPARTURE FROM THIS EDEN SHALL BE.
SUCH IS LIFE.
IF YOU FEEL SO, PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU AVOID THAT LATTER DISCOMFORT.
A GENEROUS OFFER.
BUT THAT DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT A SPIRIT CAN DIE IN THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
I SEE.
THE TRUTH IS I HAVE NO IDEA IF SUCH A TRAGEDY IS POSSIBLE.
IT HAS NEVER HAPPENED.
THE NOTION DOES SET ONE DOWN A RATHER INTERESTING INTELLECTUAL COURSE, DOES IT NOT?
EVERYONE IN SOUL WORLD LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE THEY ARE THEIR OLD FLESH AND BLOOD SELVES.
THEY ARE FOOLING ONLY THEMSELVES. EACH AND EVERYONE IS MERE SPIRIT WITH NO SUBSTANCE.
I SUPPOSE WE ALL CREATE THESE FACADES BECAUSE THE MIND REFUSES TO YET COMPREHEND THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR BEING.
EVEN IN THIS AFTER-LIFE, SELF-IMAGE IS A GOVERNING FACTOR.
SO ALL SOUL WORLD'S CHILDREN SKIP AROUND THE GARDEN WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD.
YES, IT TRULY IS THE HOME OF HAPPY AND CONTENT SOULS LIVING IN PERFECT HARMONY.

EXCEPT FOR ME!
MY CURSE IS TO FOR-EVER BE THE UNSEEN OUTSIDER!
YOU ARE BUT A FACET OF THE WHOLE THAT IS MYSELF AND SO THE REST OF SOUL WORLD'S CITIZENS ARE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF YOUR EXISTENCE.
I HAD HOPED THIS GENTLE ENVIRON MIGHT DAMPER THE ANGRY FIRES THAT BURN WITHIN YOU.
HOW COULD IT?
WITHIN THIS NIGHTMARE REALITY I AM LESS THAN NOTHING, A PATHETIC SHADOW!
I AM VOICE THAT NONE HEARS AND TOUCH WHICH AFFECTS NO ONE!
THIS SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS THE WORST FATE YOU COULD HAVE WISHED ON ME.
I HAVE BECOME BUT A WRAITH OF FRUSTRATION.
I AM THE SORROW IN THE WIND!
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT I AM SORRY.
YET IT IS TRUTHFULLY YOUR EVIL NATURE THAT HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THIS END.
YES, FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE POWER-FUL WARLOCK HAS BANISHED HIS DARK SIDE TO THIS DREARY CELL.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
BUT HOW TRULY PERFECT IS THIS PRISON WHICH HOLDS ME?
I HAVE BEEN WONDERING IF...

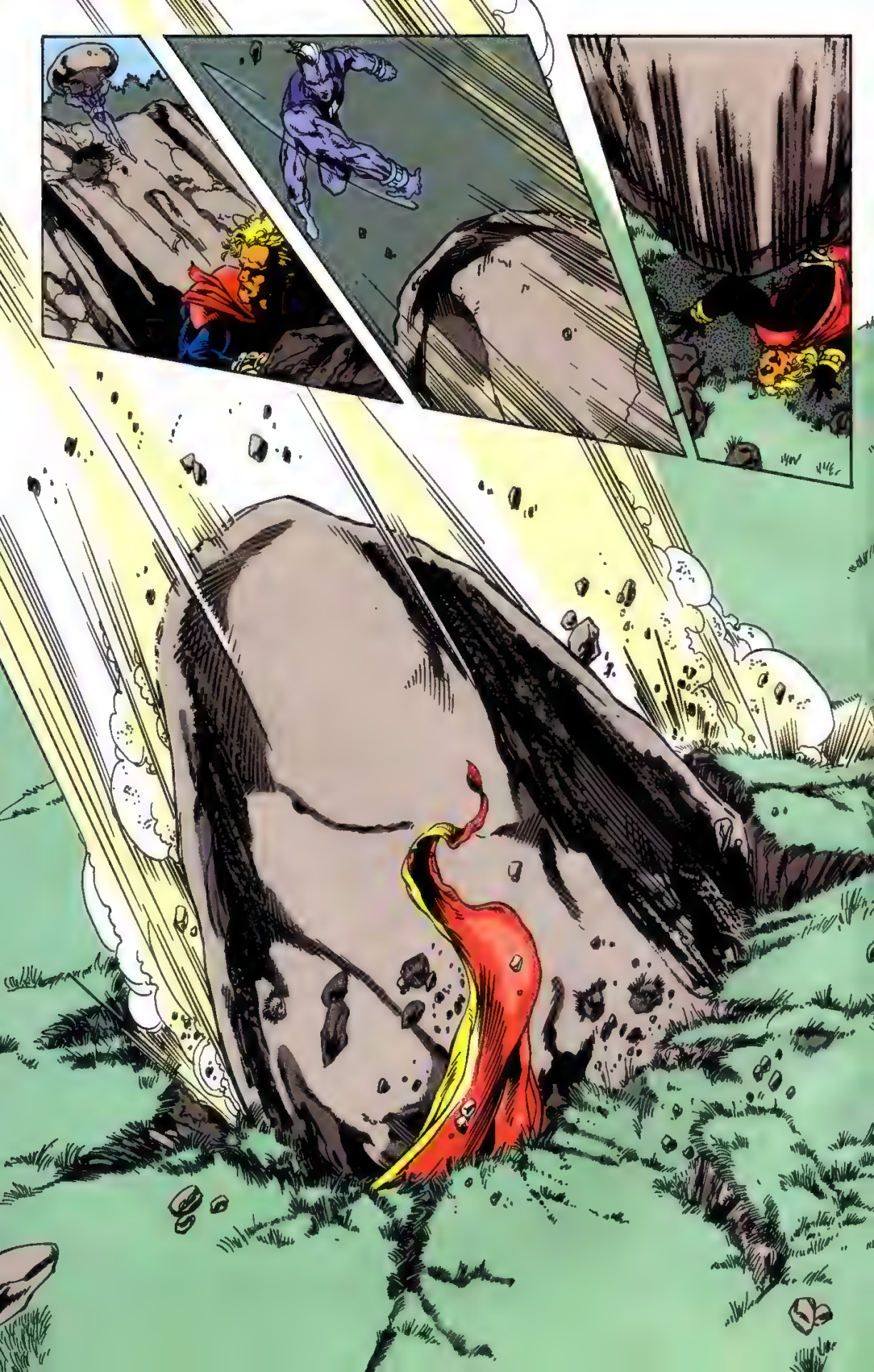
JUST AS I THOUGHT!
TO YOU I AM A REALITY NONE OTHER ON THIS PLANE CAN APPRECIATE.
NO MATTER HOW HELPLESS A SPIRIT BECOMES, IT ALWAYS POSESSES THE POWER TO HURT ITSELF.
WHICH IS OF NO IMPORT FOR THE MOMENT. NOT WHEN COMPARED TO THE MISSION THAT HAS BROUGHT ME TO SOUL WORLD.

MAGUS, BECAUSE OF OUR KARMIC LINK YOU MUST SURELY BE AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE GODDESS.
I AM.
WHEN YOU WERE YOUR REALITY'S SUPREME BEING, YOU OBVIOUSLY NEVER FORESAW THAT EXPELLING ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM YOUR SYSTEM, TO BECOME A GOD OF PURE LOGIC...
...WOULD HAVE SUCH DIRE CONSEQUENCES ON YOUR UNIVERSE.
BEING ALL-KNOWING IS APPARENTLY A RELATIVE CONDITION.
FIRST YOU REINCARNATED TO THREATEN REALITY AND NOW MY GOOD IMPERILS IT.
BUT THIS SO-CALLED GODDESS'S AMBITIONS FAR SURPASS EVEN MINE.
THEN YOU TOO DISCERN HER TRUE INTENTIONS.
OF COURSE. THE WOMAN IS A TERRIBLY TWISTED ENTITY.
WITHOUT MY LEVELING PERSONALITY TRAITS TO MODERATE, THE GODDESS IS SHEER OUT-OF-CONTROL RELIGIOUS ZEAL.
SO NARROW A FOCUS HAS SHE THAT--
AND YOU HAVE RETURNED TO SOUL WORLD TO ENLIST MY AID IN THWARTING THIS GODDESS AND HER MAD SCHEMES?
YES.
I AM UNCERTAIN WHETHER I AM STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THE DAY ALONE.

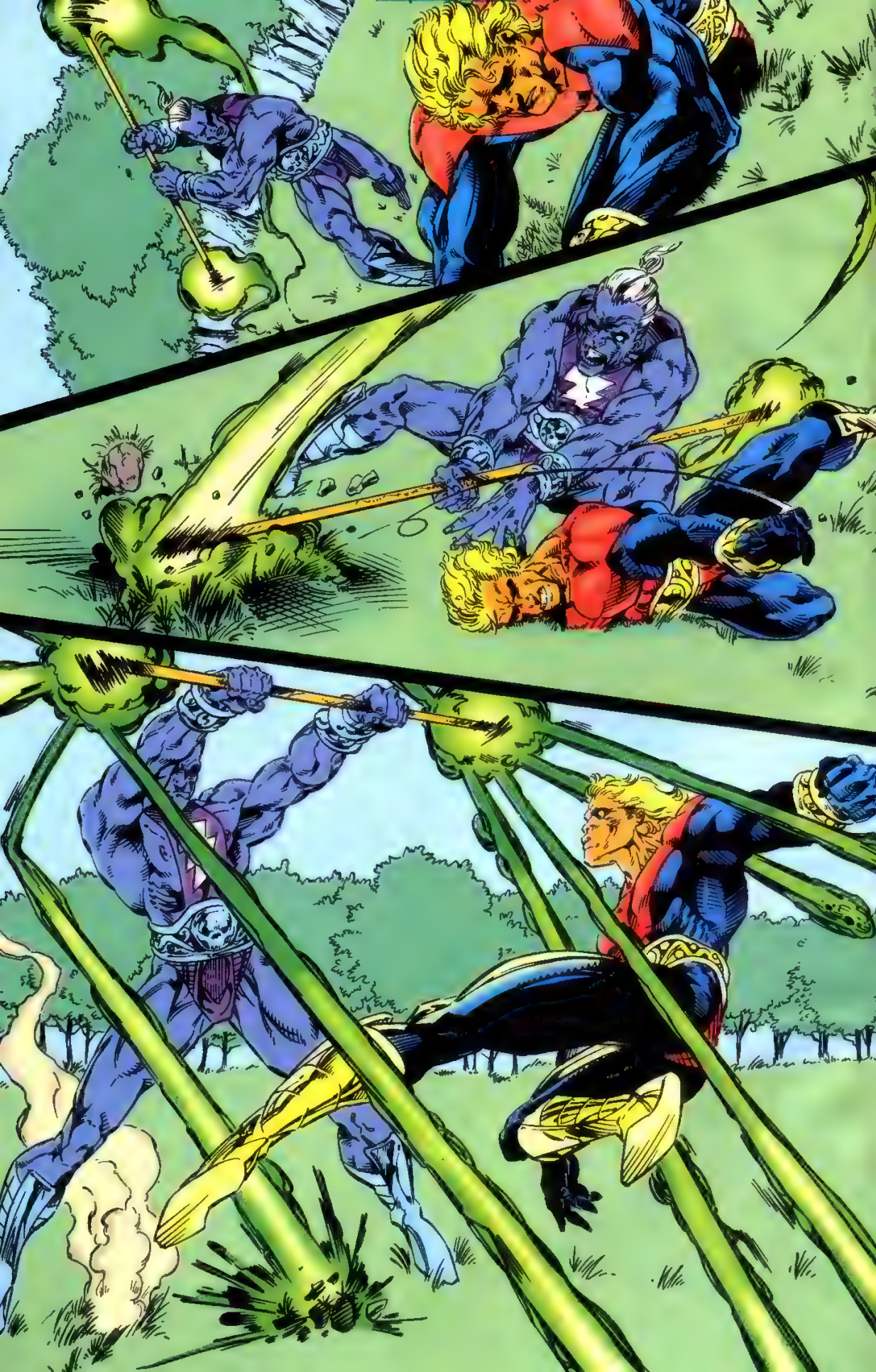
HAVING NO GOOD OR EVIL WITHIN DOES ALLOW ME TO OPERATE ON COSMIC LEVELS OF THOUGHT I WOULD OTHERWISE BE UNABLE TO ACCESS.
IT GREATLY EXPANDS MY PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNIVERSE.
BUT IT ALSO RATHER LIMITS YOUR DRIVE, DOES IT NOT?
YES, I SUPPOSE MY FORCE OF WILL IS NOT WHAT IT WOULD BE IF I WERE WHOLE.
WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME IF I AGREE TO HELP?
YOU HAVE MADE CLEAR YOUR LOATHING OF SOUL WORLD.
YOU OFFER ME A PARDON?
OF SORTS.
AID ME AND I WILL FREE YOU FROM THIS PRISON I FIND HEAVEN...
...AND FULLY INTEGRATE YOU BACK INTO MY OWN BEING.
WOULD THAT NOT ALLOW ME THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE DAY BECOMING THE DOMINANT FACTOR IN YOUR PERSONALITY?
PERHAPS EVENTUALLY TURN YOU INTO MYSELF?
I SUCCEEDED IN THAT GOAL ONCE IN A REALITY THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.
MIGHT I NOT ACCOMPLISH THAT SAME GOAL IN THIS ACTUALITY?

THE IMMINENT DANGER TO MY UNIVERSE IS SO GRAVE THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER.
I MUST RISK THE EVENTUALITY OF YOU USURPING MY BEING.
WILL YOU JOIN ME IN THIS WAR AGAINST THE GODDESS?
THERE IS YET ANOTHER OPTION OPEN TO US YOU MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED.
WHICH IS?
DID YOU KNOW MY PERSONAL HATRED FOR YOU FAR EXCEEDS MY LOATHING FOR THE VELVET CELL YOU HAVE IMPRISONED ME WITHIN?
IT IS ALSO FAR GREATER THAN ANY AFFECTION I MIGHT HAVE FOR THE UNIVERSE.
BECAUSE OF YOU, MY EXISTENCE IS MISERY AND WITHOUT PAST.
WHY SHOULD THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE NOT SUFFER ALONG WITH ME?

BECAUSE UNDER THE GODDESS'S TOUCH, THE UNIVERSE'S PAIN WOULD FAR EXCEED YOUR OWN.
THIS YOU KNOW TO BE TRUE.
THEN THE ONLY FAIR THING TO DO IS SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM THIS FATE.
BUT I SHALL DO SO WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
HOW?
I SHALL RETURN TO REALITY IN YOUR PLACE.
A FOOL'S BOAST.
IS IT?
WHO IS THERE TO BAR ME FROM THIS GOAL...
...ONCE YOU ARE DEAD?!



WELL, DEAR ADAM, I HAVE NO NOTION WHETHER YOU LIVE OR NOT BENEATH THAT MASSIVE TOMBSTONE.
BUT I DO KNOW THAT WHEN AND IF YOU FREE YOURSELF, I WILL HAVE LONG AGO DEPARTED THIS PLANE AND...
...WILL BE RESIDING WITHIN THAT HEALTHY YOUNG BODY OF YOURS.
FAREWELL, MY FOOLISH SELF--
HUH?



ON YOUR FEET, MAGUS!

NO... MORE...
PLEASE...

ENOUGH...
YOU MAY HAVE WON THE BATTLE... BUT IT WILL NOT FORCE ME INTO... HELPING YOU.
I WOULD SEE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE DESTROYED BEFORE I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO AID YOU!
SO FILLED WITH USELESS HATRED.
BUT IT DOES NOT MATTER.
I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE WITHOUT YOU.
JUST BECAUSE YOU TOOK ME DOWN DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN HANDLE THE GODDESS.
SHE HAS THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS ON HER SIDE!
BUT I TOO HAVE ALLIES.
AND OUR CONFRONTATION HAS ALSO GIVEN ME A RENEWED SENSE OF CONFIDENCE

I NOW REALIZE THAT OUR BATTLE WAS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY AS FAR AS YOU WERE CONCERNED, MAGUS.
YOU NEVER REALLY HAD ANY CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME.
I SEE NOW THAT EVEN WITHOUT YOU, I AM COMPLETE!
WHILE YOU...YOU ARE BUT EVIL.
YOU WILL BE FOREVER BUT A SHADE.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN TWO WEEKS WITHIN THE PAGES OF:
WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #21

THEN JOIN US FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ONE WEEK LATER IN THE PAGES OF:
THE INFINITY CRUSADE #5

AND THEN CONNECT BACK UP WITH US HERE THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR CHRONICLES #5 AND:
INTERIOR EXPLORATION!

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DARKHAWK
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME ON THE INFINITY CRUSADE!
DIRECT EDITION
031111

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MYSTERIOUS DARKHAWK.

PUNCH-OUT ON THE INTERGALACTIC EXPRESS!

CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS GOING OFF TO RISK MY LIFE AGAIN... WHEN MY FAMILY NEEDS ME MORE THAN EVER!
BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I REALLY HAVE?
THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
THE COLLECTED "UN-CONVERTED" HEROES --AMONG THEM DARK-HAWK-- HAVE ELECTED TO CHALLENGE THE GODDESS AS WELL AS HER THRALLS --THE "CONVERTED" HEROES --ON HER HOME PLANET, PARADISE OMEGA.*
NOW, THE UNCONVERTED GATHER AT AVENGERS MANSION TO BOARD TWO MARK V QUINJETS WHICH WILL --MOST LIKELY-- TAKE THEM TO THEIR DOOMS.
DANNY FINGEROTH WRITER
ANTHONY WILLIAMS PENCILER
IAN AKIN INKER
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER
TROY SAYERS COLORIST
NEL YOMTOV EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
* SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #1-3 FOR DETAILS.—NEL

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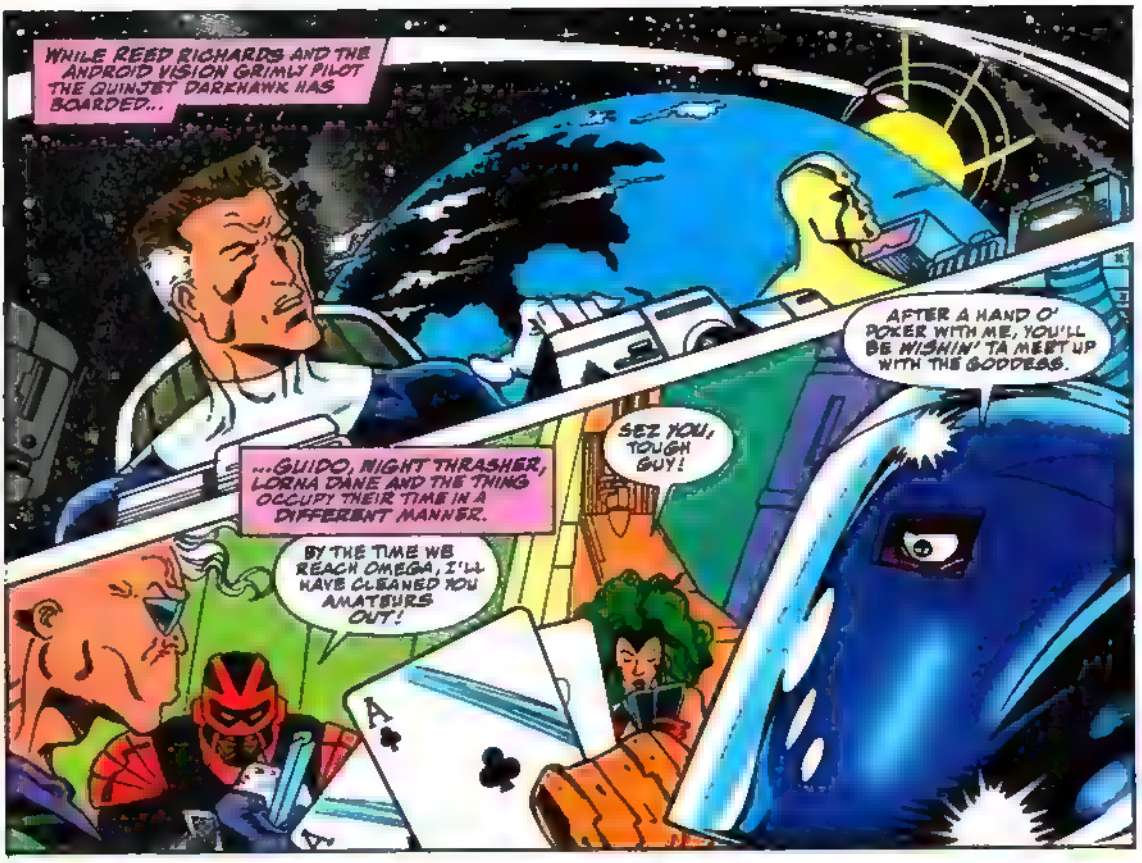
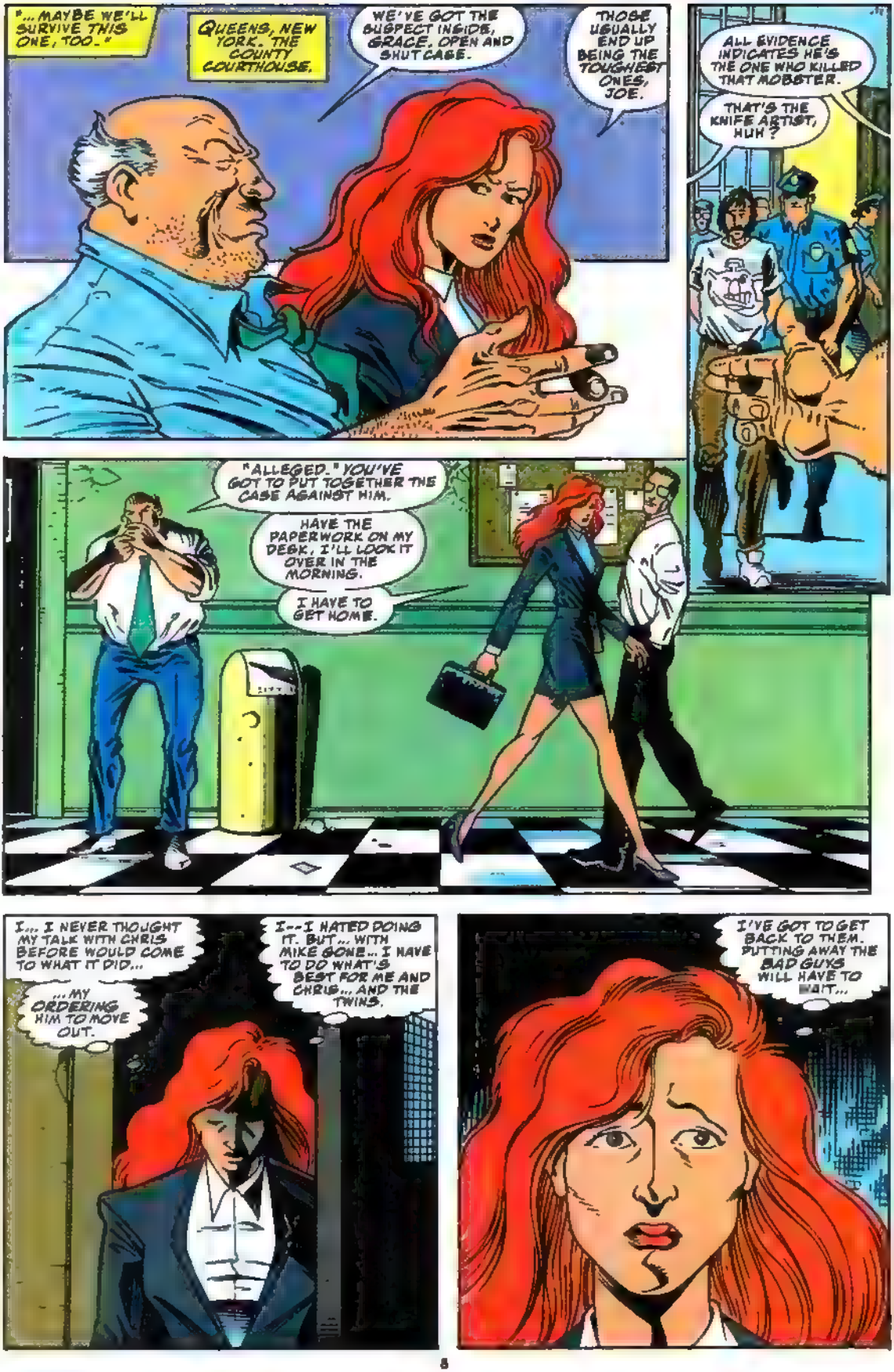
BUT THE ODDS ARE IRRELEVANT.
THE GOAL IS PARAMOUNT:
THE GODDESS MUST BE STOPPED.


WHILE REED RICHARDS AND THE ANDROID VISION GRIMLY PILOT THE QUINJET DARKHAWK HAS BOARDED...
AFTER A HAND O' POKER WITH ME, YOU'LL BE WISHIN' TA MEET UP WITH THE GODDESS.
SEZ YOU, TOUGH GUY!
...GUIDO, NIGHT THRASHER, LORNA DANE AND THE THING OCCUPY THEIR TIME IN A DIFFERENT MANNER.
BY THE TIME WE REACH OMEGA, I'LL HAVE CLEANED YOU AMATEURS OUT!

ELSEWHERE ON THE CRAFT, CYCLOPS AND THE HUMAN TORCH ARE LESS INCLINED TO LIGHTHEARTED TIME PASSING.
ONLY SPIDER-WOMAN CHOOSES TO RECORD HER THOUGHTS... FOR THE BENEFIT OF HER DAUGHTER.
IT'S AMAZING, RACHEL. I WISH YOU COULD BE HERE--
I TAKE THAT BACK. I'M GRATEFUL YOU'RE NOT HERE.
WISH I WASN'T, EITHER.

MAN, DO I ENVY HER HAVING SOMEONE TO CONFIDE IN ABOUT HER LIFE AS A SUPER HERO.
I CAME THIS CLOSE TO TELLING MY MOM THAT I'M DARKHAWK EARLIER TODAY.*
* LAST ISSUE.—HEL
BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO PUT HER UNDER THE PRESSURE OF KNOWING THAT-- ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER STUFF SHE'S GOT TO DEAL WITH.
OR DID I JUST COP OUT...?
MAN-- WISH WE'D GET THERE ALREADY.
HEY--HAWK-- HOWZABOUT JOININ' US FER A FEW HANDS?
UH... NO... THANKS, THING. NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD.
THAT'S THE BEST TIME, KIDDO!
MAYBE LATER...

I'M NOT REALLY UP FOR HANGING OUT.
WISH WE'D GET THERE ALREADY, AND GET THIS ALL OVER WITH.
MAYBE I CAN CHILL OUT IN THIS EMPTY ROOM.
I'M SICK OF PLAYING HERO TODAY...
...IT'S TIME FOR CHRIS POWELL TO REAPPEAR.
MAYBE I NEED TO STOP BEING DARKHAWK FOR A WHILE...
...TO GET MY OWN LIFE IN ORDER... AND MY FAMILY'S.
BUT I DECIDED A WHILE BACK THAT AS LONG AS THERE WAS A NEED FOR A DARKHAWK-- I'D TAKE ON THAT RESPONSIBILITY.
ONLY, IT SEEMS THAT THE WAY THE WORLD--THE UNIVERSE--IS...
...THERE'S ALWAYS GONNA BE A NON-STOP NEED FOR A GUY LIKE HIM--ME--US.
MAN, I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS BATTLE, SO I CAN FIND OUT IF MY FATHER IS STILL REALLY ALIVE.*
WELL... THE REST OF THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN THROUGH GALACTIC EVENTS LIKE THIS AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE...
...EVEN I HAVE...
* AS DH DISCOVERED THE POSSIBILITY OF IN ISSUE # 29.--NEL


"...MAYBE WE'LL SURVIVE THIS ONE, TOO."
QUEENS, NEW YORK. THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE.
WE'VE GOT THE SUSPECT INSIDE, GRACE. OPEN AND SHUT CASE.
THOSE USUALLY END UP BEING THE TOUGHEST ONES, JOE.
ALL EVIDENCE INDICATES HE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED THAT MOBSTER.
THAT'S THE KNIFE ARTIST, HUH?
"ALLEGED." YOU'VE GOT TO PUT TOGETHER THE CASE AGAINST HIM.
HAVE THE PAPERWORK ON MY DESK, I'LL LOOK IT OVER IN THE MORNING.
I HAVE TO GET HOME.
I... I NEVER THOUGHT MY TALK WITH CHRIS BEFORE WOULD COME TO WHAT IT DID...
...MY ORDERING HIM TO MOVE OUT.
I--I HATED DOING IT. BUT... WITH MIKE GONE... I HAVE TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR ME AND CHRIS... AND THE TWINS.
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THEM. PUTTING AWAY THE BAD GUYS WILL HAVE TO WAIT...

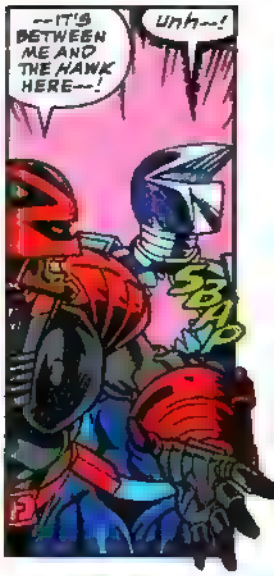
A SCRAPYARD IN THE BRONX, WHERE BRODERICK BAZIN TAKES THE NEXT FATAL STEP TO ELIMINATE HIS LATE FATHER'S ENEMIES...
...BOTH REAL AND SUSPECTED.
YOU'RE PAID IN FULL, MATHERS.
THERE ARE MANY MORE ON THE LIST...
...BUT THE POWELL FAMILY ARE THE ONES WHO DESERVE TO SUFFER THE MOST.
AND, AT THE ELMHURST MOTEL IN QUEENS, WHERE THE POWELLS ARE TEMPORARILY HOUSED...
...BRODERICK'S SISTER, ALLEGRA, SCREECHES HER CAR TO A HALT--
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
...AND BOUNDS UP THE STEPS TO THE FAMILY'S ROOMS.
BAMM BAMM
BAMM
CHRIS! I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU! OPEN UP!
UH... CHRIS DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE MOM KICKED HIM OUT...
WHAT...? THEN -- WHERE IS HE? I HAVE TO FIND HIM!
HE'S MY ONLY HOPE!
I -- I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S MOVED TO...
DON'T LIE TO ME, BRAT! I'LL KNOCK YOU INTO NEXT WEEK!
I... I...

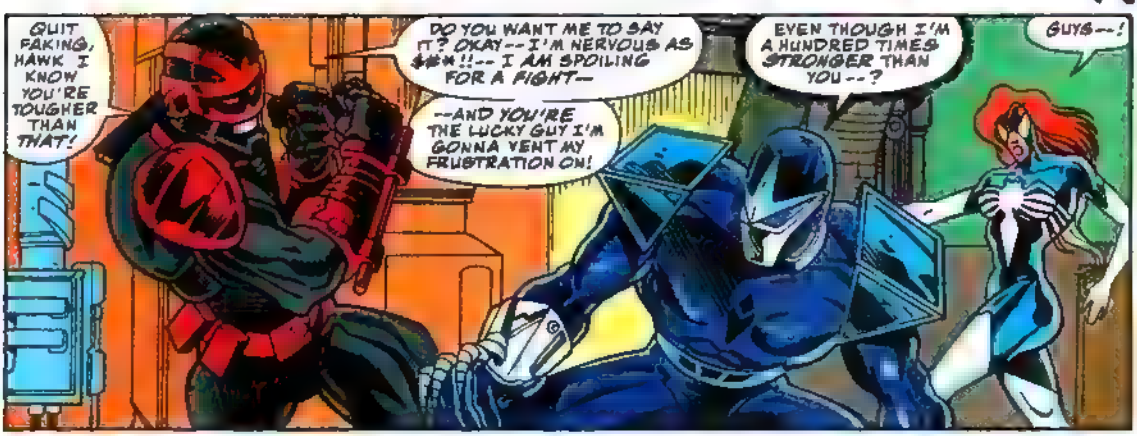
WHILE...
HEY...
...YOU IN HERE, HAWK?
WHA—?
YEAH.
WHY THE HERMIT ROUTINE?
OH, YOU KNOW—DEEP THOUGHTS. I'M A REGULAR JACK HANDEY.
DOING YOUR OWN STRAIGHT LINES NOW, HUH?
WHY NOT JOIN THE REST OF US—IT'LL DO YOU—
NO! MY LIFE'S FALLING APART—
—AND IT'S ALL—MY—FAULT!
EASY, CHAMP. WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS HERE WITHOUT BEING SUCKED INTO SPACE.
YOUR FOIL-WEB—!
YOU GOING TO TAKE A SHOT AT ME NOW? I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS—!
I—I—
I'M SORRY, SPI.
STUPID GAMES... STUPID PEOPLE...

...TRYING TO DENY THE REALITY OF WHAT'S GOING ON WITH CARD GAMES.
YOU LOST, HUH, THRASH?
OH, YOU'RE A RIOT, HAWK.
YOU'RE SO SUPERIOR WITH THAT BROODING HAMLET ROUTINE OF YOURS. LIKE THE REST OF US DON'T HAVE LIVES WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND.
DON'T THINK I'M FORGETTING HOW CLOSE I CAME TO SETTING MY PAST STRAIGHT -- BEFORE YOU FORCED ZARRKO TO TAKE THE CHANCE FROM ME.*
* IN DH'ZR--NEL
THAT'S A HARD THING TO FORGIVE AND FORGET, FRIEND.
YOU KNOW I DID IT TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, THRASH.
FOR WHAT -- FOR ME TO RISK IT AGAIN HERE?!
HEY, C'MON... CHILL OUT. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT.

OH, REALLY? AND WHAT'RE YOU--EINSTEIN JUNIOR?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, GUY--
--I'M IN JUST THE MOOD--!

HEY-- BOTH OF YOU-- SAVE IT FOR THE GOD-DESS!
SPIDER-WOMAN-- STAY OUT OF THIS--


--IT'S BETWEEN ME AND THE HAWK HERE--!
Unh--!
SBAD


QUIT FAKING, HAWK. I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGHER THAN THAT!
DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT? OKAY-- I'M NERVOUS AS $#%!!-- I AM SPOILING FOR A FIGHT--
--AND YOU'RE THE LUCKY GUY I'M GONNA VENT MY FRUSTRATION ON!
EVEN THOUGH I'M A HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER THAN YOU--?
GUYS--!

THRASH-- THIS IS WHAT MY FORCE-BLAST AT LOWEST POWER CAN DO. GIVE IT UP!
UNF-- NO WAY-- JUST MORE OF A CHALLENGE-- FOR MY ARMOR--!
HEY, HEY--
SHVAK!

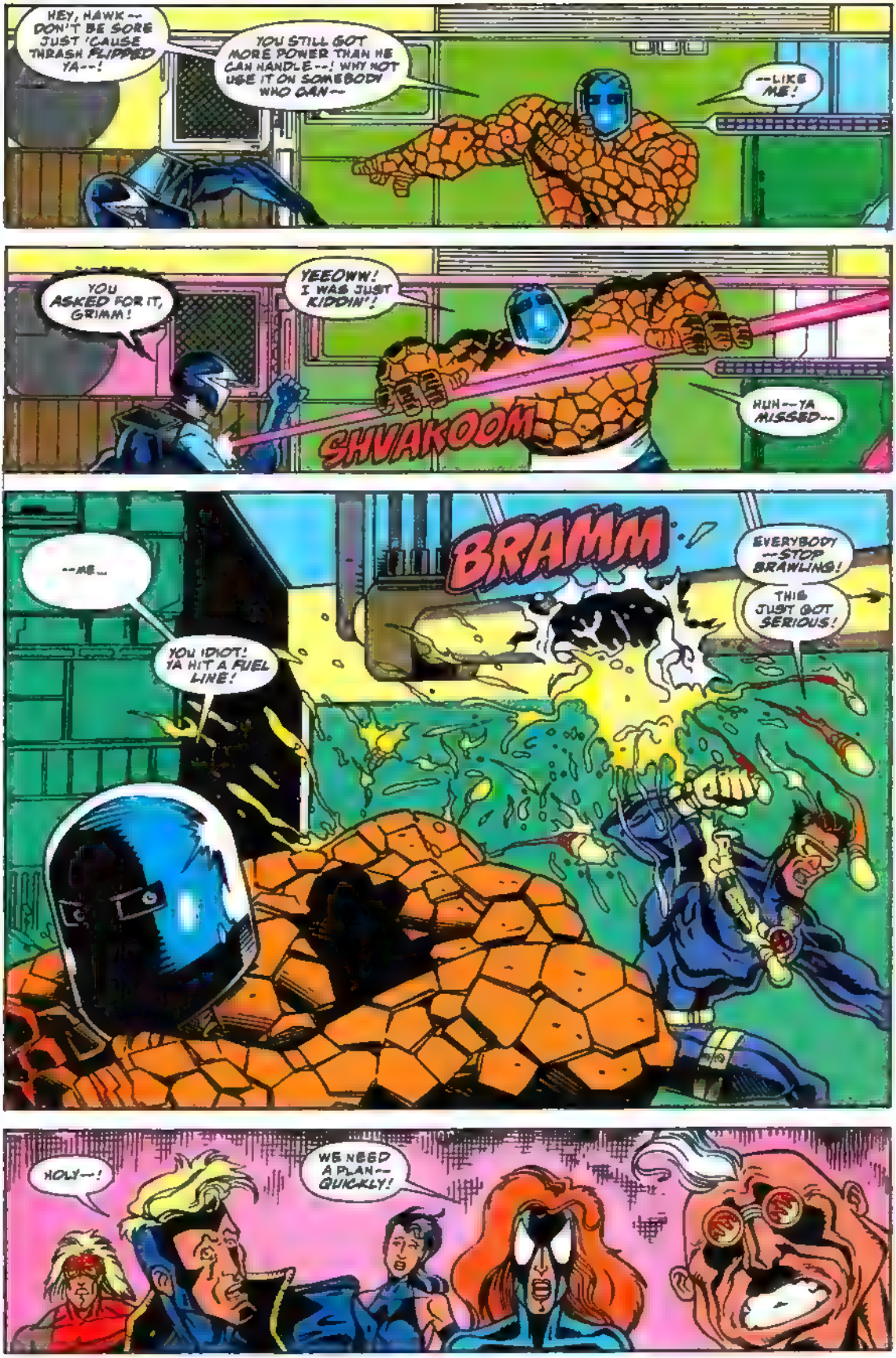
P CLEAR
--DID THE GODDESS JUST RECRUIT ONE OF YOU?
I DO NOT THINK SO, STRONG GUY. I THINK THEY ARE JUST NERVOUS -- LIKE THE REST OF US!
THE JUST-ENTERING FIRESTAR, HAVOK, NORTHSTAR, PSYLOCKE, AND STRONG GUY THINK THEY ARE HELPING.
NORTHSTAR--
--KEEP OUT OF MY BUSINESS!
THEY THOUGHT WRONG!
:mmphh:
YOUR BUSINESS, MY FRIEND--
--HAS JUST BECOME MY BUSINESS!
KBAK!
SBAM!
ALPHA FLIGHT'S WILDHEART.
ORDINARILY, I'D BE HAPPY TO ENGAGE IN A BRAWL--
--BUT IS THIS REALLY THE BEST TIME OR PLACE?

HEY, TORCHIE-- YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
I HEAR IT, BENJY--
--AND I SEE IT!
WHAT A BUNCHA INTELLECTUALS.
WELL, MATCHSTICK, WHADDAYA SAY WE SHOW 'EM HOW SENSELESS PUNCHING AND HITTING IS DONE?
ALL I CAN SAY IS:
FLAME ON!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME
RIGHT BACK ATCHA, PAL!
HEY, GROUP--

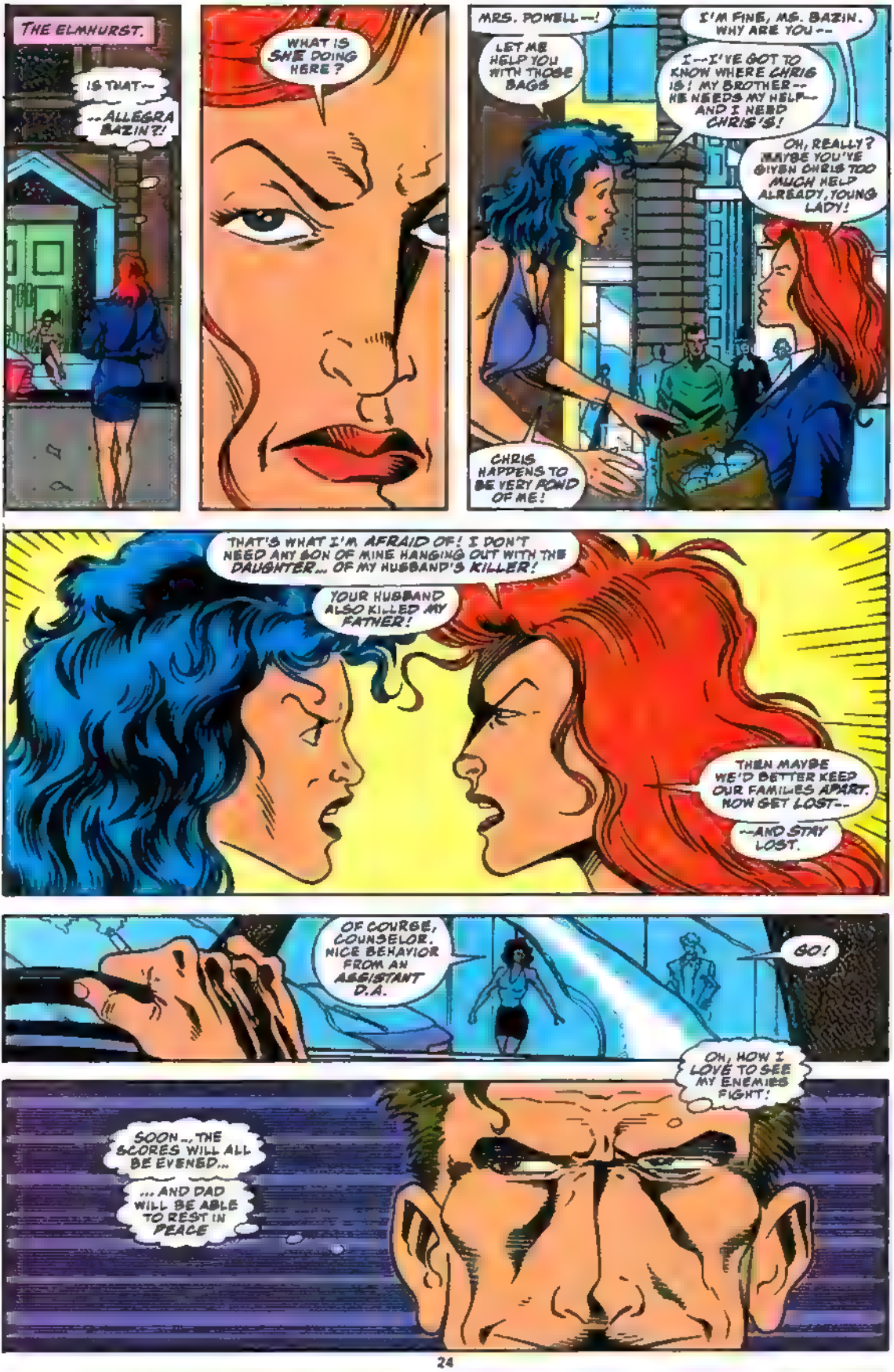
--LEAVE SOME FOR US!
SBAK
HEY, WILDHEART--
--TAKE AN ALPHA FLIGHT!
WHAMM
WHOOAOA--!
I GOT 'IM--
--WHOOPS! THERE HE GOES-- STRAIGHT INTA THAT MACHINE!
HOPE IT ISN'T ANYTHING IMPORTANT.
WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, ..ORNA--!
SKRAASH!
TOGETHER, WITH MY OPTIC BLASTS-- AND YOUR MAGNETIC POWER--
--WE CAN KEEP THE SHRAPNEL CONTAINED!

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE BRAWLING BUG'S BITTEN ALMOST EVERYBODY ON BOARD!
HEY, THIS IS WHAT WE'RE ALL HERE FOR--
--TO PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO FREELY CHOOSE TO ACT LIKE TOTAL IDIOTS!
A RIGHT, THING--
--OR AN OBLIGATION?
SAME DIFFERENCE.

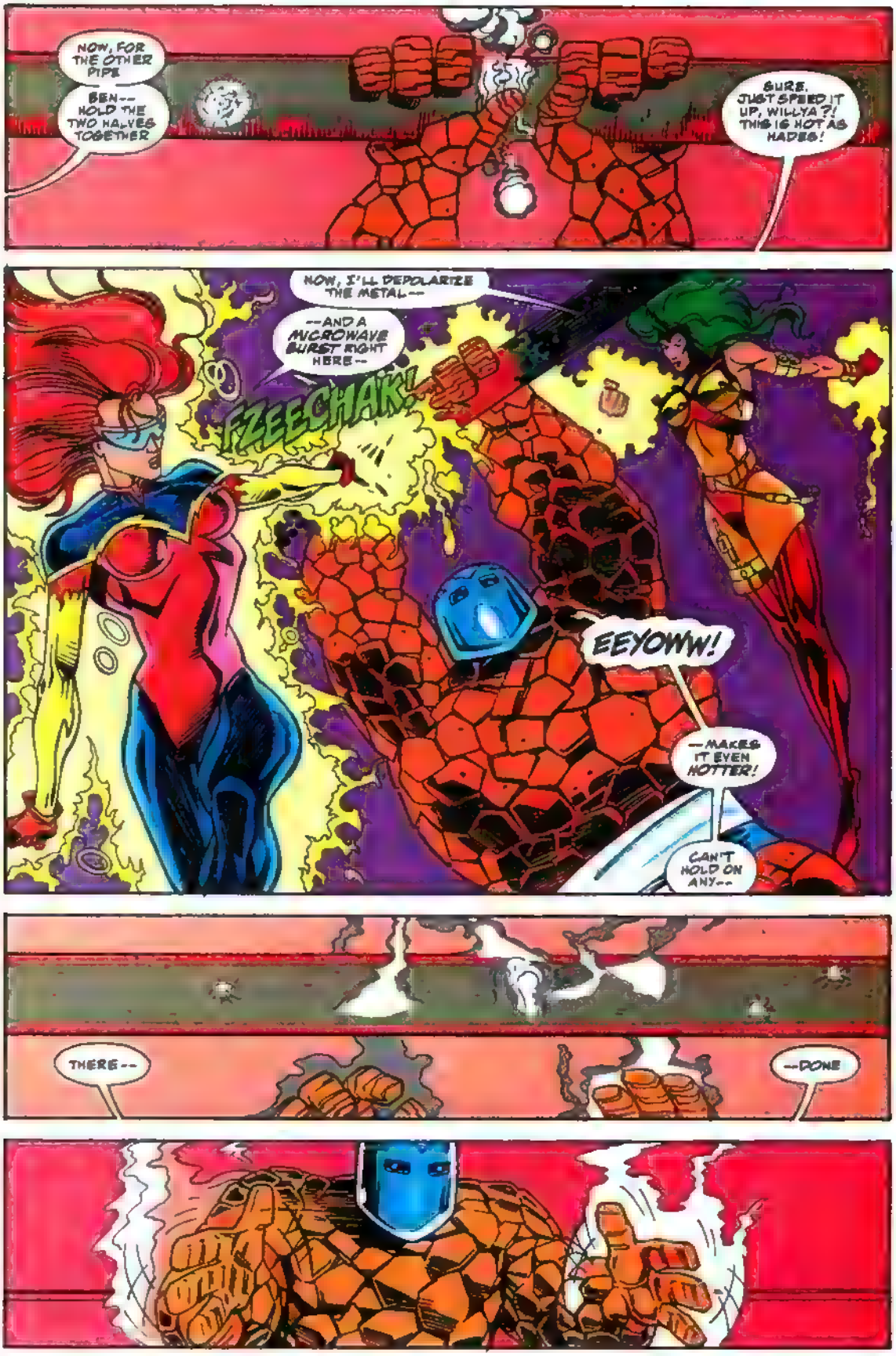
THIS IS NO JOKE, STRONG BUY! SOMEBODY COULD GET HURT--!
NOW THAT'S MATERNAL!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A MOTHER!
WHAT AN [UNF]: COINCIDENCE! PEOPLE SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT ME!
MY ENERGY-KNIFE WILL PUT AN END TO YOUR BATTLING, WILDHEART!
PSYLOCKE --YOU'RE TAKING THIS WHOLE THING JUST A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY.
HAH! YOU'RE STRONGER, HAWK--
--BUT I KNOW HOW TO USE THAT STRENGTH AGAINST YOU--!
THAT'S IT, THRASHER. I'M THROUGH HOLDING BACK--!

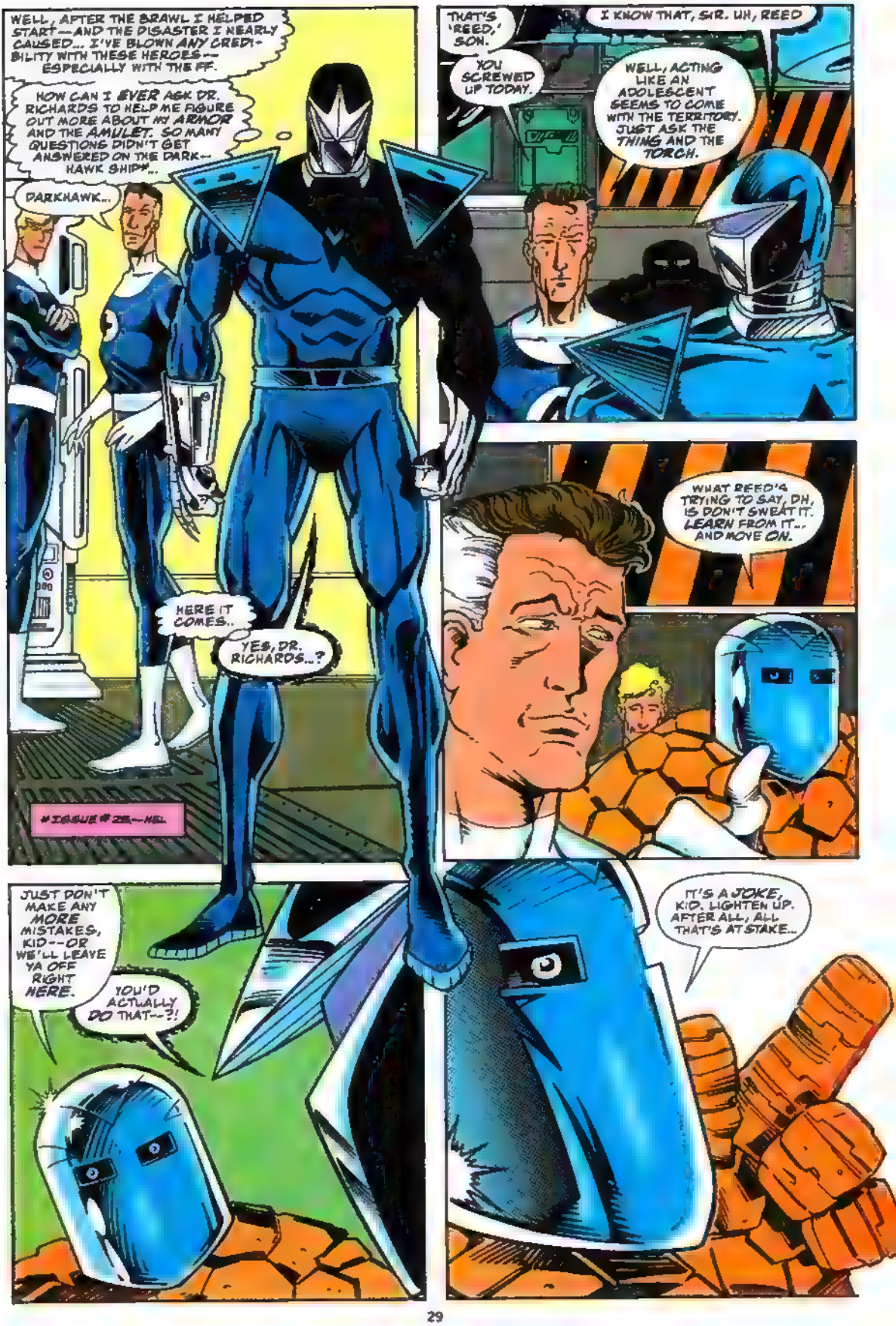

HEY, HAWK -- DON'T BE SORE JUST 'CAUSE THRASH FLIPPED YA--!
YOU STILL GOT MORE POWER THAN HE CAN HANDLE --! WHY NOT USE IT ON SOMEBODY WHO CAN--
--LIKE ME!
YOU ASKED FOR IT, GRIMM!
YEEOWW! I WAS JUST KIDDIN'!
SHVAKOOM
HUH--YA MISSED--
--ME--
YOU IDIOT! YA HIT A FUEL LINE!
BRAMM
EVERYBODY --STOP BRAWLING!
THIS JUST GOT SERIOUS!
HOLY--!
WE NEED A PLAN-- QUICKLY!

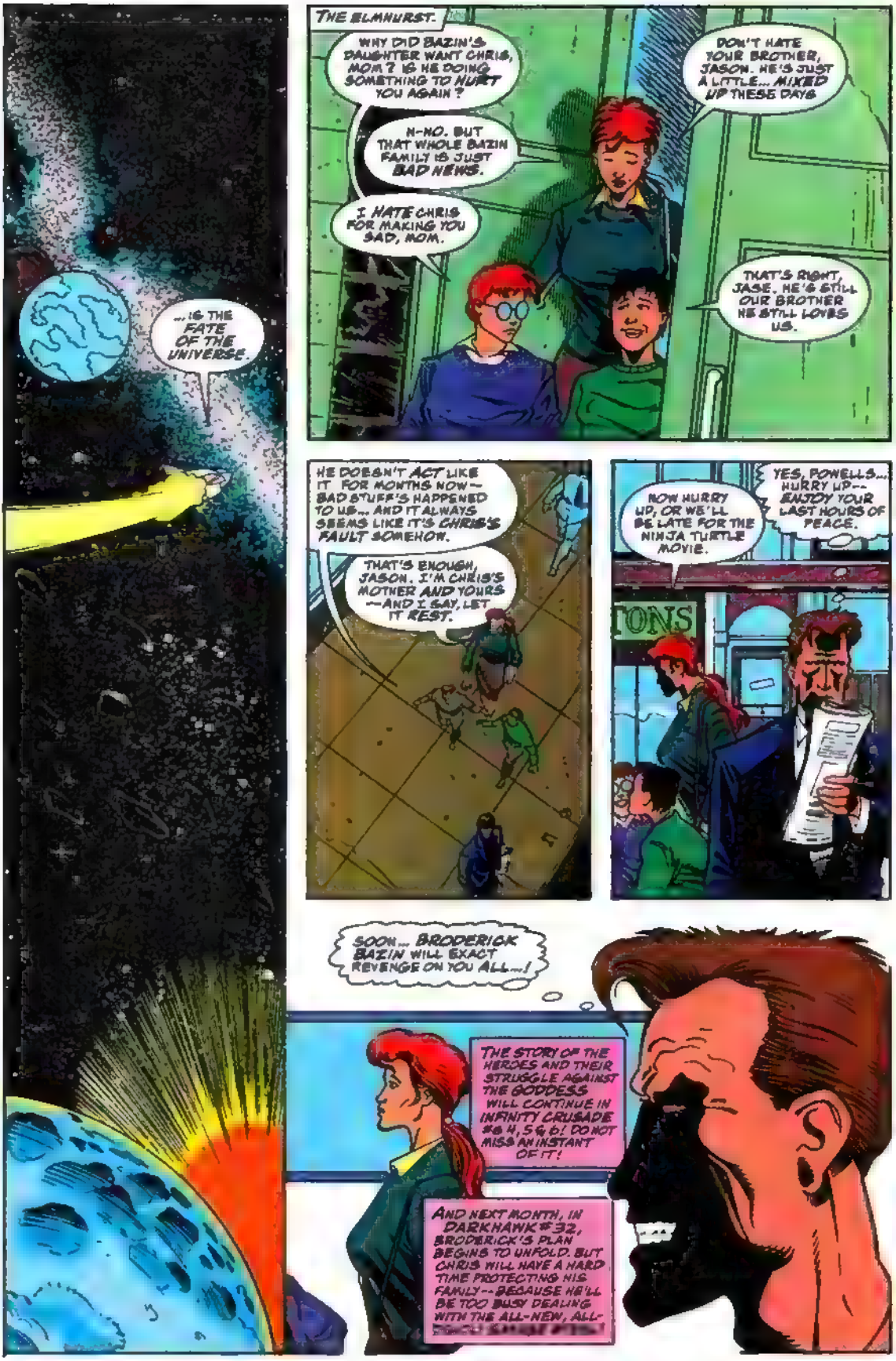
YOU INFANTS CERTAINLY DO!
REED!
I PLANNED TO COME IN AND CALM YOU PEOPLE DOWN, ANYWAY--
--BUT THAT LITTLE EXPLOSION MADE ME THINK THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME URGENCY TO IT!
IF YER MAD AT US--JUST SAY SO, OKAY?
THIS FOAM OUGHT TO KEEP THE FLAMES FROM--
FWOOSH
BWAAM!
AARGH--!
PRESSURE CHANGE... CAUSED PIPE BEHIND ME... TO BURST AS WELL...
WHADDA WE DO NOW?!


THE ELMHURST.
IS THAT--
--ALLEGRA BAZIN?!
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
MRS. POWELL--!
LET ME HELP YOU WITH THOSE BAGS
I'M FINE, MS. BAZIN. WHY ARE YOU--
I--I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHERE CHRIS IS! MY BROTHER--HE NEEDS MY HELP--AND I NEED CHRIS'S!
OH, REALLY? MAYBE YOU'VE GIVEN CHRIS TOO MUCH HELP ALREADY, YOUNG LADY!
CHRIS HAPPENS TO BE VERY FOND OF ME!
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF! I DON'T NEED ANY SON OF MINE HANGING OUT WITH THE DAUGHTER... OF MY HUSBAND'S KILLER!
YOUR HUSBAND ALSO KILLED MY FATHER!
THEN MAYBE WE'D BETTER KEEP OUR FAMILIES APART. NOW GET LOST--
--AND STAY LOST.
OF COURSE, COUNSELOR. NICE BEHAVIOR FROM AN ASSISTANT D.A.
GO!
OH, HOW I LOVE TO SEE MY ENEMIES FIGHT!
SOON... THE SCORES WILL ALL BE EVENED...
... AND DAD WILL BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE

WHILE...
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT...
SPIDER-WOMAN--USE YOUR PSI-WEB TO HOLD THE PIPE TOGETHER--
...BUT ONLY IF YOU FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.
OF COURSE, DR RICHARDS
GEEZ--COULD I SOUND LIKE ANY MORE OF A DWEEB?!
NOW, DARKHAWK--CONTAIN THE EXCESS ENERGIES WITH YOUR FORCEBLAST--
--AND TORCH, YOU DO THE SPOT-WELDING WITH YOUR PINPOINT FLAME
YOU GOT IT, BROTHER-IN-LAW.
AND, NOW--
--VISION, MAKE YOUR HAND INTANGIBLE AND MAKE SURE THE WIRING IN THE REGULATOR IS OKAY
IT CHECKS OUT, REED
AND THE SHIP SEEMS TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT ON AUTOPILOT WHILE WE WORK HERE.


NOW, FOR THE OTHER PIPE
BEN-- HOLD THE TWO HALVES TOGETHER
SURE. JUST SPEED IT UP, WILLYA?! THIS IS HOT AS HADES!
NOW, I'LL DEPOLARIZE THE METAL--
--AND A MICROWAVE BURST RIGHT HERE--
FZEECHAK!
EEYOWW!
--MAKES IT EVEN HOTTER!
CAN'T HOLD ON ANY--
THERE--
--DONE


WELL, AFTER THE BRAWL I HELPED START--AND THE DISASTER I NEARLY CAUSED... I'VE BLOWN ANY CREDIBILITY WITH THESE HEROES--ESPECIALLY WITH THE FF.
HOW CAN I EVER ASK DR. RICHARDS TO HELP ME FIGURE OUT MORE ABOUT MY ARMOR AND THE AMULET. SO MANY QUESTIONS DIDN'T GET ANSWERED ON THE DARKHAWK SHIP*...
DARKHAWK...
HERE IT COMES..
YES, DR. RICHARDS...?
*ISSUE # 28--ED.
THAT'S 'REED,' SON.
YOU SCREWED UP TODAY.
I KNOW THAT, SIR. UH, REED
WELL, ACTING LIKE AN ADOLESCENT SEEMS TO COME WITH THE TERRITORY. JUST ASK THE THING AND THE TORCH.
WHAT REED'S TRYING TO SAY, DH, IS DON'T SWEAT IT. LEARN FROM IT... AND MOVE ON.
JUST DON'T MAKE ANY MORE MISTAKES, KID--OR WE'LL LEAVE YA OFF RIGHT HERE.
YOU'D ACTUALLY DO THAT--?!
IT'S A JOKE, KID. LIGHTEN UP. AFTER ALL, ALL THAT'S AT STAKE...


...IS THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE.
THE ELMHURST.
WHY DID BAZIN'S DAUGHTER WANT CHRIS, MOM? IS HE DOING SOMETHING TO HURT YOU AGAIN?
N-NO. BUT THAT WHOLE BAZIN FAMILY IS JUST BAD NEWS.
I HATE CHRIS FOR MAKING YOU SAD, MOM.
DON'T HATE YOUR BROTHER, JASON. HE'S JUST A LITTLE... MIXED UP THESE DAYS
THAT'S RIGHT, JASE. HE'S STILL OUR BROTHER HE STILL LOVES US.
HE DOESN'T ACT LIKE IT FOR MONTHS NOW— BAD STUFF'S HAPPENED TO US... AND IT ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE IT'S CHRIS'S FAULT SOMEHOW.
THAT'S ENOUGH, JASON. I'M CHRIS'S MOTHER AND YOURS —AND I SAY, LET IT REST.
NOW HURRY UP, OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE NINJA TURTLE MOVIE.
YES, POWELLS... HURRY UP— ENJOY YOUR LAST HOURS OF PEACE.
SOON... BRODERICK BAZIN WILL EXACT REVENGE ON YOU ALL...!
THE STORY OF THE HEROES AND THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GODDESS WILL CONTINUE IN INFINITY CRUSADE #6 4, 5 4 6! DO NOT MISS AN INSTANT OF IT!
AND NEXT MONTH, IN DARKHAWK #32, BRODERICK'S PLAN BEGINS TO UNFOLD. BUT CHRIS WILL HAVE A HARD TIME PROTECTING HIS FAMILY— BECAUSE HE'LL BE TOO BUSY DEALING WITH THE ALL-NEW, ALL-

NELSON YOMTOV. . .editor **JOHN LEWANDOWSKI. . .assistant editor**
c/o Marvel Comics Group — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, NY 10016
Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name & address, though we will withhold that information on request.

Dear Danny,

DARKHAWK is one of Marvel's better titles, but can you please make him more than just a mysterious Spider-Man with a power amulet?

How about a little bit of truth in the Powell family? Chris Powell should come forward to his family and Cheryl and reveal everything about Darkhawk and what really happened to his father. He should promise to forget being Darkhawk until he graduates high school.

What about Allegra Bazin? If you don't make her Chris's lover, you should make her his sworn enemy.

Duane W. Elliott
(Address withheld by request)

It's been our belief all along that Darkhawk is much more than "just a mysterious Spider-Man with a power amulet," Duane, although we won't deny that there are some similarities between DH and Spidey in his early days. Chris doesn't seem ready at this point to spill the beans, least of all to Cheryl, so we'll have to wait and see what develops. And we hope you didn't miss DARKHAWK ANNUAL #2, which is still on sale: it has a very interesting scene between Chris and Allegra!

Dear Nel,

Re: DARKHAWK #28.

So the third pulse-pounding chapter of "Shattered Fates" put our helmeted hero some one hundred years into the future, a future very much like the one we've come to know in the 2099 line of comics. Great, you really handled it in the spirit of the current 2099 books, but what made it even greater was the fact that the inhabitants of this future New York seem to know Darkhawk! Does this mean there will be a future version of Darkhawk in 2099? Does this mean there will be a DARKHAWK 2099 series coming our way any time soon? I, for one, would buy it!

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands
Europe

We just want to point out, Olav, that the future world into which Darkhawk was transported was not necessarily the Marvel Universe of 2099. There were a lot of similarities, but we don't know for certain if that future was the same exact one you read about in our 2099 books. (There were so many similarities, in fact, that even we were momentarily fooled, and announced at the end of DARKHAWK #27 that we would in fact be visiting 2099! Sorry about that!)

Dear Darkhawk Guys,

From reading through your letters pages, it seems that what the kids really want is a regular arch nemesis for Darkhawk, more Allegra Bazin, lots more Evilhawk, and all the rest of that superb super hero/teen angst stuff. Please tell me that Allegra Bazin gets together with Chris, and then somehow snatches the Evilhawk amulet, thus becoming a new super menace and Darkhawk's regular arch-enemy! Thanks for producing such excellent comics!

Jason Atomic
c/o S.I. Rubberworks
Cubitts Yard
Covent Garden
London

Interesting idea about Allegra and the Evilhawk amulet, Jason. Of course, we're not going to reveal what Danny has in store for the amulet, Allegra, and all the other ongoing subplots, but it's always fun to hear what you guys think should happen!

Dear Dark Mail,

I've been reading DARKHAWK since the beginning, and I must say that the book continues to intrigue and delight me. Danny has been on full throttle since winding up "Return to Forever," and this current storyline with the New Warriors just might be the best one yet! Time travel has always been one of my favorite science fiction concepts, and though I was unsure of how successful such a concept could be used in a series like DARKHAWK, I'm happy to say that you guys have done just fine. I'm at the edge of my seat, wondering if DH and the Warriors will indeed change history, even to a small degree, as a result of their bargain with Zarrko. And then there's the subplots: Grace Powell agonizing over Chris's odd behavior; Chris's own brother slowly growing to hate him; Chris and Cheryl's relationship apparently over; and lurking in the shadows, waiting for the right time to make her move — Allegra! I'm glad Danny is focusing more on the supporting cast and subplots now. For a while, it seemed like they were getting lost in the shuffle. But that certainly isn't the case now. DARKHAWK now reads like AMAZING SPIDER-MAN did in its glory days, when the supporting cast and the various subplots played an important part of each and every issue, and there was always a new development.

I'm also impressed with the work of Tod Smith, who has done a fine job replacing Mike Manley. I'll be honest: I couldn't picture a time when Mike Manley wouldn't be working on DARKHAWK. However, since that time has now come, it's nice to see that such a good artist has come in to take the reins. I hope that Tod will be able to stay on the book for at least as long as Mike did; he and Danny really work well together.

I do have a question: is there any way you could give us readers at least a hint of what's to come in the near future? I'm not going to ask if you're going to show Darkhawk's face or any of the other questions my fellow readers have beaten to death in this letters page since #10. I'd just like to know about the general direction in which the series is headed, or what we can expect to see in the near future. Thanks.

James Feldenstein
(Address withheld by request)

Well, we won't give away any major secrets, James, as you could probably guess, but we can tell you this: developments that have occurred over the last few issues will escalate into major elements in the near future. For example, we learned in #29 that both Mike Powell and Bazin may very well be alive! And in that very same issue, we watched as Darkhawk discovered that he has the ability to fly! You can bet that we won't leave these little tidbits on the shelf for very long! And don't think we've forgotten about that extra amulet, either! Danny has a major storyline planned around that, which will feature Darkhawk going into outer space!

NEXT ISSUE: Penciler Tod Smith is back at the helm just in time to tackle an old DH blast from the past — Savage Steel! Catch Tod's and Steel's savage return in — you guessed it — "SAVAGE RETURN!"

THE SILVER SURFER
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
THE LIVING BOMB!
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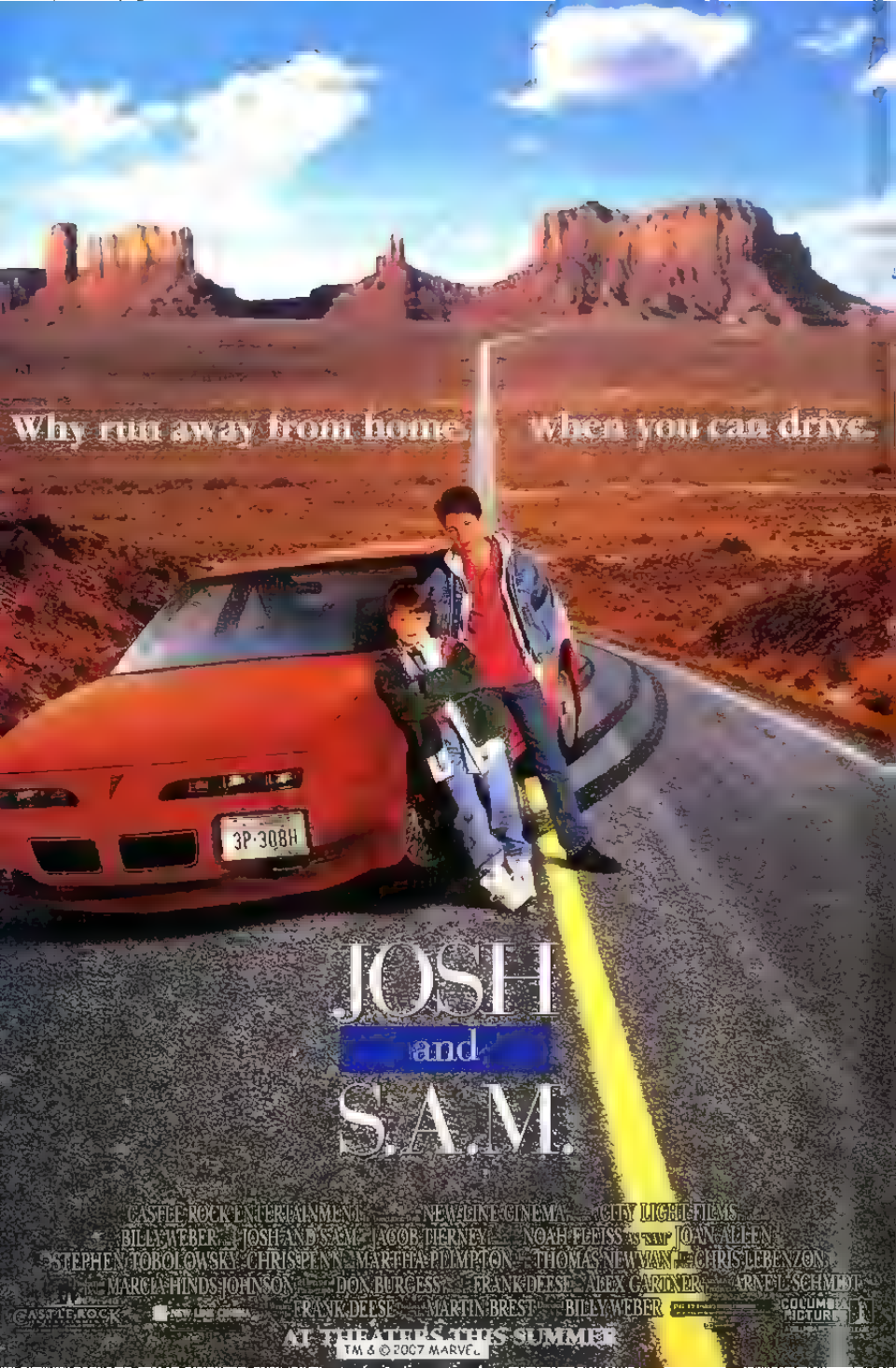

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AT THEATERS THIS SUMMER

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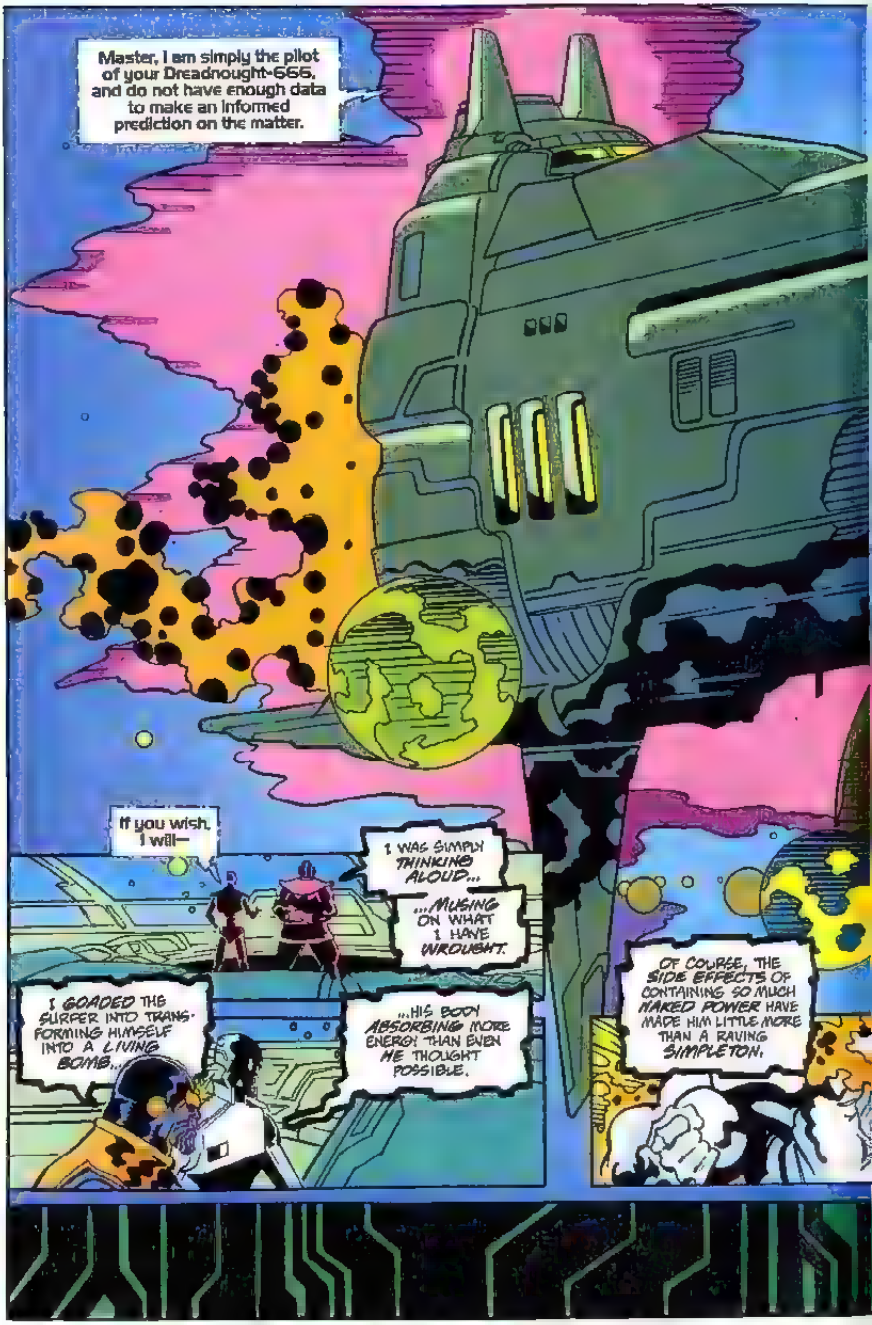
Master, I am simply the pilot of your Dreadnought-565, and do not have enough data to make an informed prediction on the matter.
If you wish, I will—
I WAS SIMPLY THINKING ALOUD...
...MUSING ON WHAT I HAVE WROUGHT.
I GOADED THE SURFER INTO TRANSFORMING HIMSELF INTO A LIVING BOMB...
...HIS BODY ABSORBING MORE ENERGY THAN EVEN HE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE, THE SIDE EFFECTS OF CONTAINING SO MUCH NAKED POWER HAVE MADE HIM LITTLE MORE THAN A RAVING SIMPLETON.

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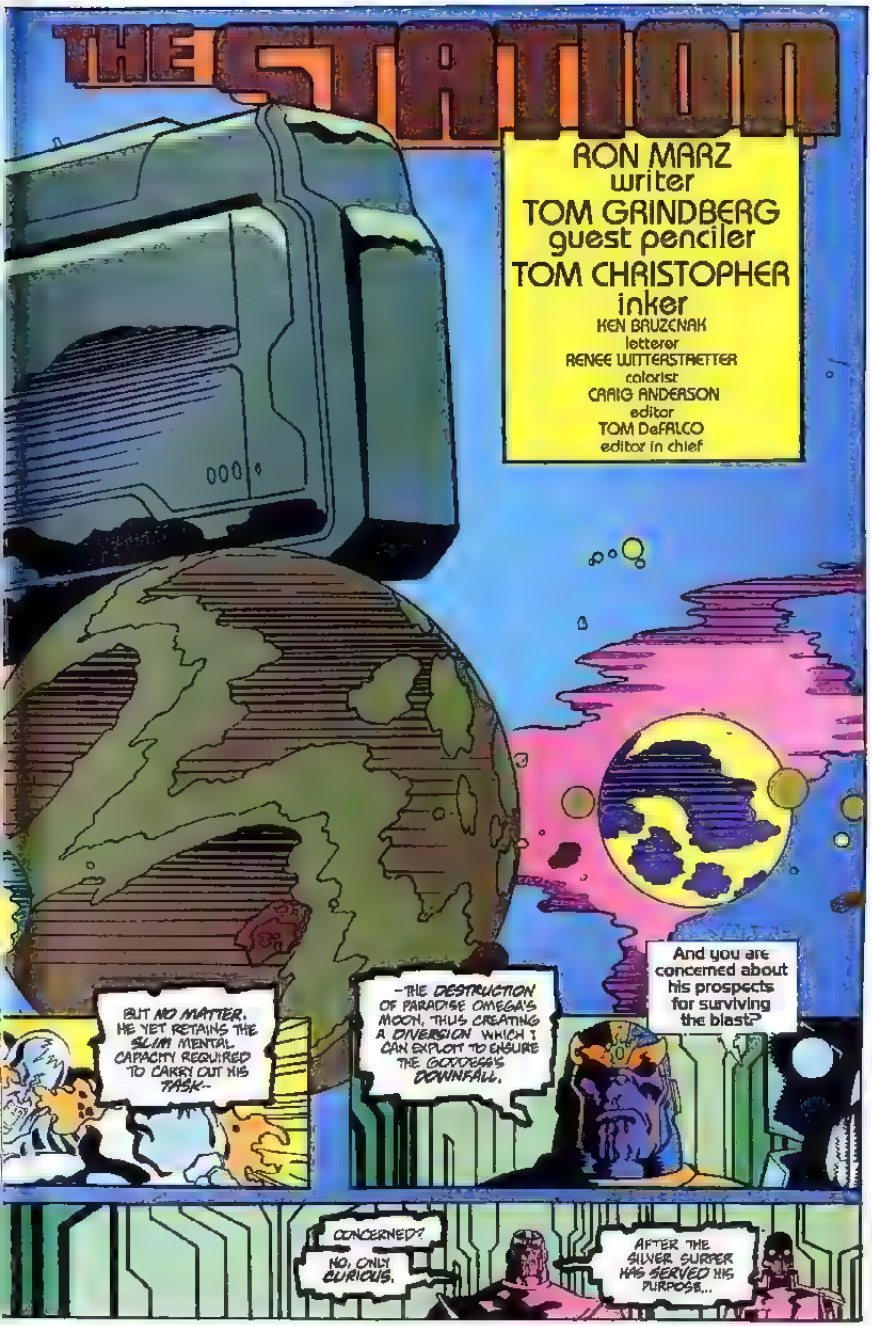
THE STATION
RON MARZ
writer
TOM GRINDBERG
guest penciler
TOM CHRISTOPHER
inker
KEN BRUZENAK
letterer
RENEE WITTERSTAETTER
colorist
CRAIG ANDERSON
editor
TOM DeFALCO
editor in chief
BUT NO MATTER. HE YET RETAINS THE SLIM MENTAL CAPACITY REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT HIS TASK--
--THE DESTRUCTION OF PARADISE OMEGA'S MOON, THUS CREATING A DIVERSION WHICH I CAN EXPLOIT TO ENSURE THE GODDESS'S DOWNFALL.
And you are concerned about his prospects for surviving the blast?
CONCERNED? NO. ONLY CURIOUS.
AFTER THE SILVER SURFER HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE...

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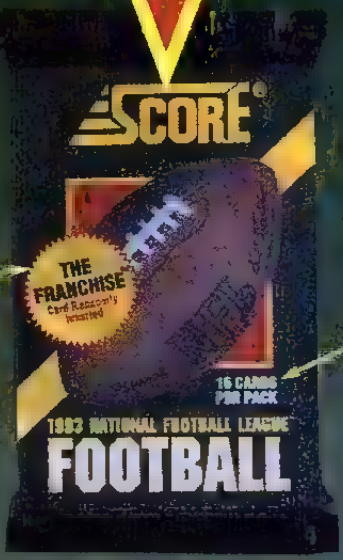

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SCORE

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...HE... WHERE... WHERE...
DEPARTURES
TICKETS
TICKETS
NO EXIT
ZENN-LA!
THIS IS A ZENN-LA MONO STATION, I'M SURE OF IT!
IT WAS ALL SO DISORIENTING— MY MIND AS OVERLOADED AS MY BODY. THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION. I REMEMBER THAT. AND THEN... NOTHING.
NOW I AWAKEN TO FIND MYSELF HERE.

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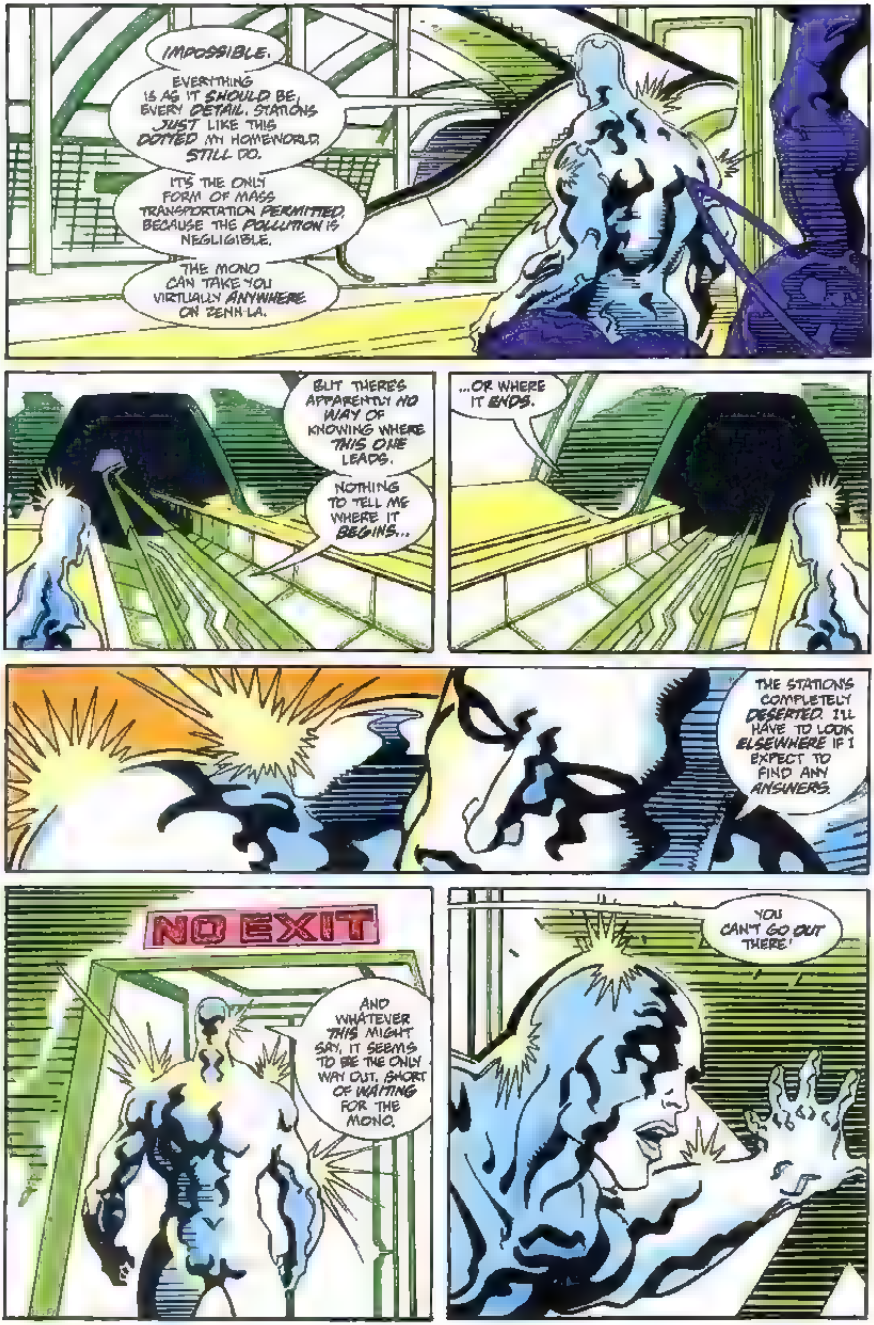
IMPOSSIBLE.
EVERYTHING IS AS IT SHOULD BE, EVERY DETAIL. STATIONS JUST LIKE THIS DOTTED MY HOMEWORLD STILL DO.
IT'S THE ONLY FORM OF MASS TRANSPORTATION PERMITTED, BECAUSE THE POLLUTION IS NEGLIGIBLE.
THE MONO CAN TAKE YOU VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE ON ZENN-LA.
BUT THERE'S APPARENTLY NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE THIS ONE LEADS.
NOTHING TO TELL ME WHERE IT BEGINS...
...OR WHERE IT ENDS.
THE STATIONS COMPLETELY DESERTED. I'LL HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE IF I EXPECT TO FIND ANY ANSWERS.
NO EXIT
AND WHATEVER THIS MIGHT SAY, IT SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY WAY OUT. SHORT OF WAITING FOR THE MONO.
YOU CAN'T GO OUT THERE!

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TICKETS
HELLO?
I...DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WAS HERE.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, YOU'RE EARLY.
BUT, LIKE THEY SAY, IT ALL GOES WITH THE TERRITORY.
IN THIS LINE OF WORK, YOU'RE ALWAYS ON CALL.
HAVE TO BE READY AT A MINUTE'S NOTICE, EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.
SO.
NOW THAT I'M HERE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE ME YOUR TICKET.
UHH... TICKET?
I DON'T HAVE A TICKET. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM.
LOOK, EVERYBODY GETS A TICKET SO THAT EVERYBODY CAN GET THEIR TICKET PUNCHED. THOSE ARE THE RULES.
YOU CAN'T GET ON THE MONO WITHOUT A TICKET.

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

CARL'S CASTINGS

As someone known for his interest in aquatic life forms (whether they're in an aquarium or in an ocean), it's only appropriate that I pontificate in terms that I'm familiar with. Let's dive right in and see if I can pull it off without making a "gaffe!"

When fishing waters rich in a variety of species, you have to go with the right lure and technique for the kind of fish you want — especially when rapidly changing weather conditions make the pescans cautious.

At Marvel/Epic we cast our lines in hopes of hooking up with pretty properties with substance — comics that will excite and entertain, that are created by some of the best talents in the industry.

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THE BULL'S EYE
by Rick Parker
MADISON SQ...ARE GARDEN...
...THEY SAY INSTEAD OF TRAINING, HE READS MARVEL'S NEW HEAVY HITTERS COMICS!

Continuing with the fishing analogy, one of the promotional lures we're using to prompt you, our valued readers, to bite at our Heavy Hitter titles is a bound-in trading card in each and every Heavy Hitters issue (not just the #1's!) on sale from September through December. There are 23 cards in all.

Once you've sampled them, we're betting you'll get hooked on our Heavy Hitters line of action adventure comics. Ask for them at your local [illegible] comics shop!

Carl Potts

If you thought the first wave of Epic's Heavy Hitter titles were pretty heavy, you'd better hold on to your love handles, because the second flight is so action-packed it's enough to make the Blob burst! Marvel/ Epic Comics Executive Editor **Carl Potts** chewed the fat with us about the new group of Heavy Hitters, which will be throwing their weight around your local comics shop this Fall.

The first book to weigh in is SACHS & VIOLENS, by those two creative heavyweights, **Peter David** and **George Perez.** SACHS & VIOLENS is a four-issue monthly limited series about a fashion photographer/ former military man named Ernie Violens, and his favorite model, Jennifer Sachs, who investigate a murder. Carl said SACHS & VIOLENS "explores the connection between s'x and violence," but promised it won't be heavy-handed! It will, however, be aimed at a mature audience.

Next Carl gave us the skinny on TERRARISTS, a 4-issue monthly limited series which comes to us from MARSHAL LAW creator **Pat Mills** and **Tony Skinner,** with fully painted art by **John Erasmus.** TERRARISTS takes place in the not-too-distant future, when the ecological state of the planet is so bad that the Earth creates a team of Eco-Warriors to save it. (Go Planet!) Carl said TERRARISTS is "jammed-full of action, strong characters, and twists and turns."

The Heaviest Hitter to date is the HEAVY HITTERS ANNUAL, a pleasantly plump 64-page one-shot which features A *pseudo*-crossover of FEUD, SPYKE, LAWDOG, ALIEN LEGION, and TROUBLE WITH GIRLS in twelve-page stories each. Although the characters from the different series don't actually meet each other, they all must deal with the threat of reality bombs from Lawdog's universe. The wrap-around cover is a jam by all the artists on the inside.

Another crossover you'll want to weight-watch out for is LAWDOG VS GRIMROD (from ALIEN LEGION). That one's by **Chuck Dixon** and new PUNISHER penciler **Hoang Nguyen,** with a cover by **Flint Henry.**

One book that can really hold its heavy water is DRAGON LINES: THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR. This one runs for two issues, with the same creative team as the first DRAGON LINES, **Peter Quinones** and **Ron Lim.** Editor **David Wohl** (he ain't Heavy-Hitter — he's my brother) informed us that DL2 introduces a new character known as Tao, who "has incredible power and doesn't know how to use it." Dave feels a special fondness for DRAGON LINES, as "my role as the trickster at Marvel is much like the Monkey King's role in the universe."

Tipping the Epic scales are tons of other projects, including BINARY DEEP, an ALIEN LEGION one-shot by **Chuck Dixon** and **Alacatena,** which has Montroc on a quest to free his father. LAWDOG continues as a monthly series by **Chuck Dixon** and **Flint Henry.** WAR MAN is a two-issue limited series about an arms dealer who is forced to confront the reality of violence, served up by **Chuck Dixon** and **Zanotto.** And BRATS BIZARRE, a 4-issue limited series by **Mills, Skinner,** and **Duke Mighten** deals with superpowered infinks.

Each book in the second wave of Heavy Hitters (including issues #7-10 of LAWDOG) will come with a trading card bound inside — but not bagged. Stressed Carl, "We don't like bags. We want people to see what they're buying."

There you have it, actions-lovers. These books are coming soon, so get ready ... get heavy-set .. and go down to your comics shop for a steady diet of action and adventure from the Heavy Hitters line!

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **2099 UNLIMITED #2:** Hulk 2099 smash!
- ☐ **AIRTIGHT GARAGE #4 OF 4:** The garage is cluttered!
- ☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST #68:** Strike a deal with **Satannish!**
- ☐ **CABLE #6:** The, the, and the Other!
- ☐ **CAGE #19:** See Cage enraged!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #420:** There's a new skull in town — the Blazing [illegible]!
- ☐ **CHILDREN OF THE VOYAGER #2 OF 4:** Join the voyage!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #321:** Cover glows in the dark! (Not that DD would notice.)
- ☐ **DARK GUARD #1:** A Marvel UK hero will die!
- ☐ **DARKHAWK #32: Savage Steel** returns!
- ☐ **DEATH'S HEAD 2 & KILLPOWER: BATTLETIDE 2 #3 OF 4:** We're exhausted just from reading the title!
- ☐ **GREATEST BATTLES OF THE AVENGERS TPB:** We've assembled some classics!
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #105:** Get in line to kill Groo!
- ☐ **GUN RUNNER #1 OF 6:** Dive in to Marvel UK's **Gene Pool!**
- ☐ **IMMORTALIS #2 OF 4:** There's a doctor in the house — and for once, it's Dr. Strange, not Dr. Who!
- ☐ **KILLPOWER: THE EARLY YEARS #2 OF 4:** Back when he was just Mumpower!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS #130:** Wolverine vs mutant gorillas! Nuff said!
- ☐ **NAMOR #43:** Stung by **Stingray!**
- ☐ **NIGHTSTALKERS #12:** Get a front seat for **Death Row!**
- ☐ **NOMAD #18:** Nomad brainwashed!
- ☐ **ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER #16:** Introducing the original **Inferno!**
- ☐ **REN & STIMPY #11:** The boys become lifeguards!
- ☐ **SAINT SINNER #1:** It's Clive-tacuous!
- ☐ **THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS:** 96 page TPB adapting C. S. Lewis's classic book!
- ☐ **SHE-HULK #58:** The Hulk guest-stars!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #6:** Introducing Legacy!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN 2099 #12:** Things get sticky!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN CLASSICS #7:** Meet the Lizard!
- ☐ **THOR CORPS #2 OF 4:** Invaded by the Invaders!
- ☐ **THUNDERSTRIKE #1.** Thunder strikes twice!
- ☐ **UNCANNY X-MEN #305:** An X-Man defects!
- ☐ **WARLOCK CHRONICLES #4.** Watch the **Magus** trick!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #105:** INFINITY CRUSADE crossover!
- ☐ **X-MEN #3 MARVEL MILESTONE:** Reprinting this classic X-Men/ Avengers clash! Happy 30th!

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DID YOU CHECK YOUR POCKETS?
I, UM, DON'T HAVE ANY.
PLEASE, I... I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME IN A WHILE. I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS STATION. WHERE DOES THE MONO GO?
ALL THE WAY. THE END OF THE LINE.
HOW DID YOU GET THIS FAR WITHOUT KNOWING ANY OF THIS?
ANY OF WHAT? I DON'T HAVE-
OH, GREAT.
SCHEDULINGS AT IT AGAIN. ANOTHER HALFWAY CASE.
NOTHING PERSONAL HERE, BUT IT'S NOT MY JOB TO HOLD YOUR HAND. YOU COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE READY.
CLOSED
WAIT, S...
...I JUST NEED!!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT NORRIN. WE'RE HERE NOW.

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FATHER?
MOTHER!
HELLO, SON.
NORRIN.
MOTHER, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND. I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, BUT HON CAN--
SHHH, WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN. THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE MISSED YOU, MORE THAN ANYTHING..
..HAVEN'T WE, JARTRAN?
OH, UH, YES... CERTAINLY, ELMAR. IT'S...
...IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU HERE, SON.
THANK YOU, FATHER...

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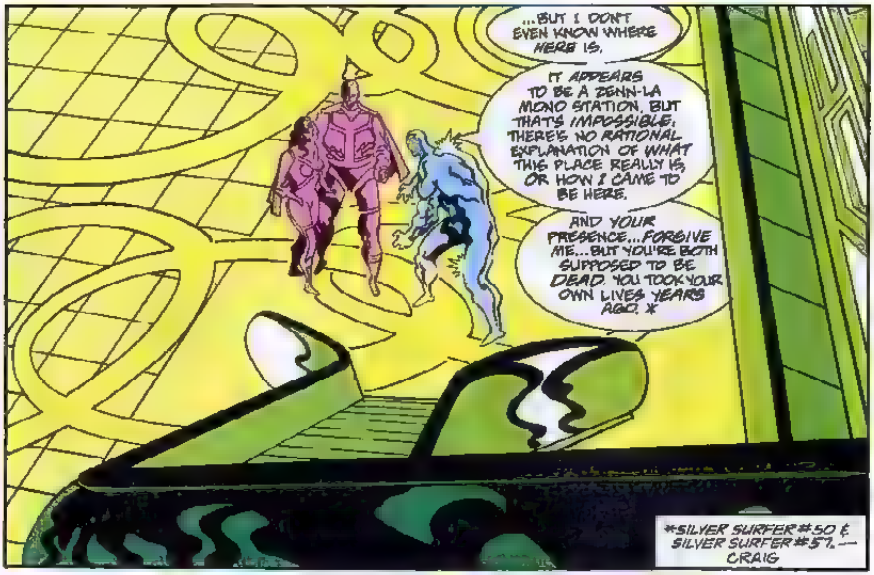
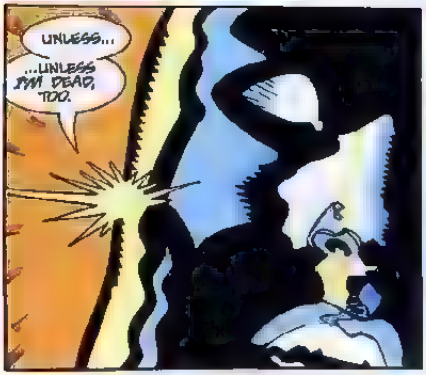
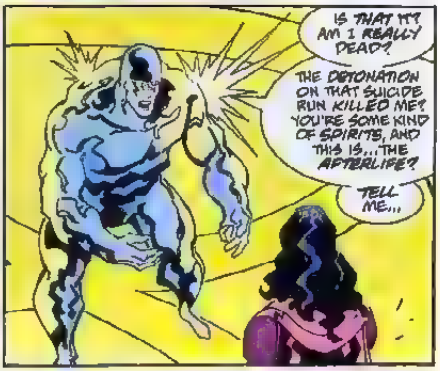
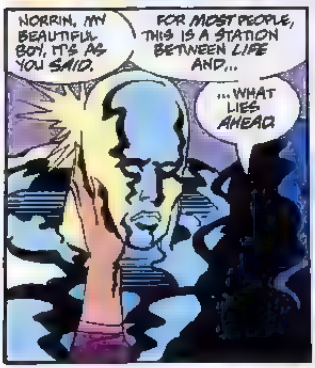

...BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HERE IS.
IT APPEARS TO BE A DENN-LA MONO STATION, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THERE'S NO RATIONAL EXPLANATION OF WHAT THIS PLACE REALLY IS, OR HOW I CAME TO BE HERE.
AND YOUR PRESENCE...FORGIVE ME...BUT YOU'RE BOTH SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD. YOU TOOK YOUR OWN LIVES YEARS AGO. *
*SILVER SURFER #50 & SILVER SURFER #57.—CRAIG




IS THAT IT? AM I REALLY DEAD?
THE DETONATION ON THAT SUICIDE RUN KILLED ME? YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SPIRITS, AND THIS IS...THE AFTERLIFE?
TELL ME...



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Our Baseball Fun Pack cards could make being sent to your room almost enjoyable. Because they're like no other trading card you've ever seen. In addition to cards of your favorite baseball stars, our Fun Packs feature scratch-off games, heat-activated cards, and glow-in-the-dark cards for hours of fun. So look for them wherever Upper Deck™ cards are sold. Because knowing you, you're going to be sent to your room any time now.

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BUT YOU MIGHT NOT BE READY.
SOMETIMES, NOT VERY OFTEN, PEOPLE GET STUCK BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.
I THINK THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE. BECAUSE YOU'VE BECOME MORE THAN MORTAL.
VERY FEW OF US GET A CHOICE, NORRIN, BUT I THINK YOU HAVE ONE. YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION...
...GO AHEAD WITH US, OR GO BACK.
STOP FILLING HIS HEAD WITH FANCIFUL IDEAS, ELMAR. YOU WERE ALWAYS DOING IT WHEN HE WAS A BOY...
...AND LOOK WHAT'S BECOME OF HIM.
I WANTED HIM TO HAVE IMAGINATION, TO SEE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO HIM.
I WANTED HIM TO HAVE SOMETHING MORE THAN YOUR COLD LOGIC.
YOU NEVER COULD HANDLE THE HARSH REALITIES OF LIFE.
DON'T STOP OUR SON FROM ACCEPTING THE REALITY OF HIS DEATH.
YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T HAVE TO.
I DON'T KNOW ANY SUCH THING!
STAY OUT OF--

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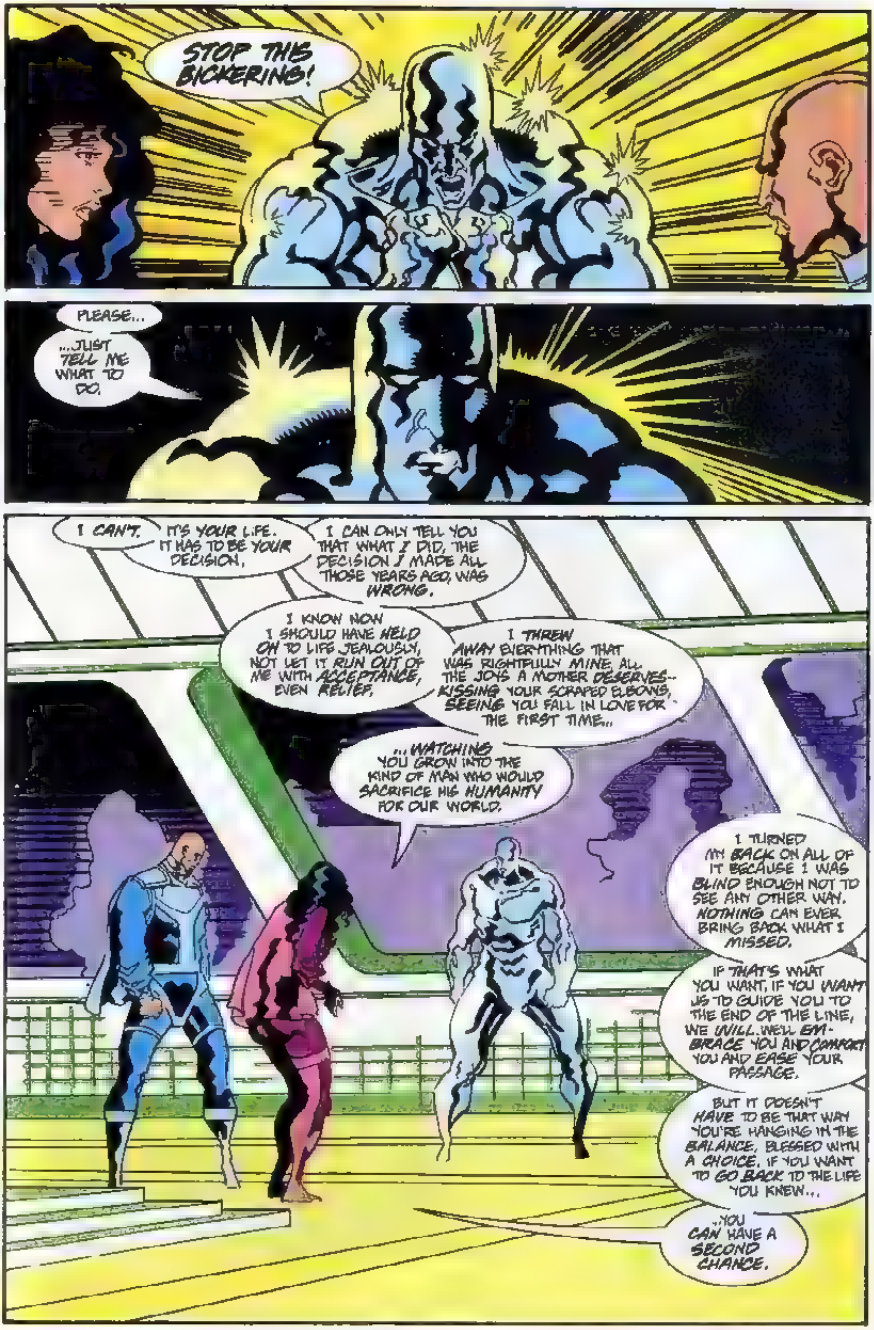
STOP THIS BICKERING!
PLEASE...
...JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
I CAN'T.
IT'S YOUR LIFE. IT HAS TO BE YOUR DECISION.
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT WHAT I DID, THE DECISION I MADE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, WAS WRONG.
I KNOW NOW I SHOULD HAVE HELD ON TO LIFE JEALOUSLY, NOT LET IT RUN OUT OF ME WITH ACCEPTANCE, EVEN RELIEF.
I THREW AWAY EVERYTHING THAT WAS RIGHTFULLY MINE, ALL THE JOYS A MOTHER DESERVES-- KISSING YOUR SCRAPED ELBOWS, SEEING YOU FALL IN LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...WATCHING YOU GROW INTO THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD SACRIFICE HIS HUMANITY FOR OUR WORLD.
I TURNED MY BACK ON ALL OF IT BECAUSE I WAS BLIND ENOUGH NOT TO SEE ANY OTHER WAY. NOTHING CAN EVER BRING BACK WHAT I MISSED.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, IF YOU WANT US TO GUIDE YOU TO THE END OF THE LINE, WE WILL. WE'LL EMBRACE YOU AND COMFORT YOU AND EASE YOUR PASSAGE.
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. YOU'RE HANGING IN THE BALANCE, BLESSED WITH A CHOICE. IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE LIFE YOU KNEW...
...YOU CAN HAVE A SECOND CHANCE.

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DON'T BELIEVE HER, SON. SHE'S A DREAMER, AND DREAMERS ARE TOO FRAGILE TO FACE THE TRUTH.
YOU'VE COME TOO FAR. THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO? DIDN'T I RAISE YOU TO SEE THE EMPTINESS OF LIFE, THE FUTILITY? IT'S PURELY ONE HARDSHIP AFTER ANOTHER.
BUT NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THE CONSTANT PAIN AND LOSS. GIVE IN, WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE.
ACCEPT IT.
END IT.
YOU... YOU MUST, TO UNDERSTAND, LIFE ISN'T FAIR. THERE'S NO FORGIVENESS. YOU HAVE TO PAY THE FULL PRICE FOR YOUR MISTAKES.
ONE SMALL OVERSIGHT AND EVERYTHING IS RUINED.
EVERYTHING.
FATHER, I..
YOU PROVED IT TO ME YOURSELF, NORRIN...
...THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SECOND CHANCE.

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Introduces the "new" Batman & costume! 64 pgs! Hot!
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Uncanny X-Men 281,282,284-298,301-303 $2
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X-Men Adventures 1-3,6,8-10 (Limit 2) $3
X-Men 2099 #1 (Now) Order by Aug. 23rd) 1.50
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Amaz Spiderman 362,365,378(1st) $3
364,366,368-372,374,376,378 $2
Arcadia 1-4 (Lim 2) $1 1 (Prism) $25
Archer & Armstrong 0,2,6 (Lim 1) $15
1 $10 3,4,6,10 $5 7,9,11-14 ..$3
Batman 457 ,492 (1st Print Limit 1) $3
436,493-499 (1st Print Limit 1) $3
Batman: Legends Dark Knight
1-12,20-26,28-33,36,38,44,Ann 1 $2
Bloodshot 1 $10 2 $6 3,4,5,10 $3
Brigade 1 2 $7.50 3,4 $3 5-11 1 2 $1
Cable 1,2 (Mini) $2 1 (New - Sale!) $3
Cyberforce $15 2,3 $3 Deathblow 1 $1
Darkhawk 1 (Lim 1) $15 2,3,5,6 $5
Darker Image 1(Limited) $50 1,2 $2
Detective 655 (1st Print Limit 1) $10
656(st) $5 660-667 (1st - Lim 1) $3
Eternal Warrior 1 5,6 (Limit 1) $15
2 3 $5 Ann 1) 7.50 7 9 $5 10-14 $3
Ghost Rider 15(Sick),20,26,31 ... $3
18-24,29,30,32-36 (Lim 2) $2
Harbinger 5,8 (coupon) $80 7 .. $20
0 (Limited) $300 10,14 (Lim 1) $15
Hardcorps 1(Gold) $75 1 $6 2-11 $3
Hellb 384-387,39 394 398,399 404 $2
Lobo Back 2,4 $3 Infantacide 1,2 $3
Omega Men 5,8,18 $3 10,20,37 $2
Magnus 5,7 (with card) $50 9,10 $20
12(Lim 1) $100 13,14,17(Lim 1) $10
15,16,18-21 $5 22-29 (Lim 2) $3
Mars 1-3 (Limited) $1 1 (Limited) $30
New Mutants 100(1st)$10 100(3rd) $2
87(Gold) $1 Ann 5 $15 Ann 7 $5
New Warriors 10-12 14,25 (Lim 1) $3
15-24,26-34, Annual 1 ..... $2
Phantom Force $2 Pilot 1,2(Lim 2) $3
Predator vs. Magnus 1,2 (Lim 2) $3
Rai 0 (Lim) $25 0,7 (Limit 1) $10
9-14 (Lim 2) $3 9 (Gold Lim 1) $75

Savage Dragon 1,2(Lim 1) $10 3 $3
vs Megaton 1 $3 vs Meg 1(Gold) $30
Shadowhawk $20 3,4 $3 5-11 1 $2
Shadowman 1 $40 2 3,8(Lim 2) $20
4-6,8,10 (Lim 1)$5 11-13,17 $3
Silver Surfer 86-89,91 74,76-79 $2
Solar 12,13,16-19,23 (Lim 1) ... $5
20-22,24-26 (Limit 2) .. $3
Spawn 1-4 (Lim 1)$15 5(Lim 1) $10
6,7 (Lim) $5 8-12 (Lim 2) $3
Speed Spiderman 169,192-199(1st) $2
Spiderman 3,5(Limit 1) 7 $5 8-12 $3
14,15,26 $3 16,23-25,27-31,33 $2
Stormwatch 1,2 $3 Tribe 1 (Sale!) $1
Supernova 1 $3 Trencher 1 (Sale!) $1
Torok 1-3 (Lim 2) $3 1 (Gold) $70
Uncanny X-Men 248(1st Print) .. $25
2 (X-1st) $10 269,272,300,304 $5
277-280,283, Ann 15-17(Lim 2) $3
281 282 284-298,301-303 305 $2
Unity 0 (Limit 1) $5 1(Limit 1) $15
0 (Red Lim 1) $150 1 (Gold) $60
Venom 1,2 $1 Wizard 72,76,77 $3
Web of Spiderman 90,95,99 (1st) $2
Wild CATS 1,3,4(Lim 2) $3 2 $7.50
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Wolverine 50,52,55-73 (Lim 1) ... $2
X-Factor 70-83,88-91 93,94(Lim 2) $2
67-69,84-87,Ann 6-8(Limit 1) $3
X-Force 2-24,26 (Lim 2) $2 25 $5
X-Men 1 (Deluxe),2- 6 $3 25 $5
1(Wolverine cover), 17-24(Lim 2) $2
X-Men Adventure 1,2,6,8-10 (Lim 2) $3
X-O Manowar 0(Lim 1) $5 Incde $10
7-9,13(Lim 1)$5 14-21(Lim 2) $3
Youngblood 1 2(Lim) $10 0,3,4 $3
Youngblood Sidekick 1,2 ..... $2

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$1.00 COMICS

Action Comics #6, 687 (Collector) 1993
Adv Superman 499(1st), 501(Collector)
Adv Superman 500(Newsstand)
Arcadia 1-4(Lim 2) Avenger 360,363
Batman 434,435,437-456,458-464
467 473,475,476,478-48 486
Blood Syndicate 1,2 Book Ass 1
Brigade 1 2 Cage 1,4,7,9,11 15
Capt America 390,400,412,414,416
Daredevil 309,31 -31b Deathblow
Darkhawk 5-18,20-28 Ann 4 368,374
Detective 603-607 609-0 7 620-624
633 - 639-642 Doctor Strange 1
Dr Zoo 60,61 65,68 Iron Man 288-291
Special Missions 3-6,8,9,11,12
JLE 4,7 Q,18,24,33,35,39,41 44,45
Legion '90 5,11,32,46,49,50,52, Ann 2

Legion 1 2,21,23 LowDog 1
Marvel Comics 88,91 126 Mage 1 3
Moon Knight 42-50 Mod Dog 1
New Mutants 87(Gold) 1983 #1-3
Robin 1 3-5 (1990) Robin II 1(1991)
Silver Sable 1 2,4-6,8,11 Star Hulk 50
SHIELD 40,41,44,46 Super Soldier 1
Sweepstrker 3,7,9-12,14 +9,21 23,25
Stormwatch 1 2 Trencher (Image) -
Superman 76(1st),78 (Collector)
Superman Man Steel 20,22(Collector),
Stalls 1 Thor 458-461 Tribe 1,2
Turtles (Archie) 4,5,9,12,14
Turtles (Image) 18,22,29,30,32-38,40
Uncanny X-Men 282(Gold) Venom 1 2
Warlock & IW 1 5,7-10 Wild Thing 1
Wonderman 1,2,14-16,20-21 Ann 1

$2.00 COMICS

Aliens Colonial Marines 1-4 Alpha 13
Alpha Flight 36,43,45,48,114,117
Amaz Spider 358,366 374,376-378
Bloodsettes 1,2 Cable 1,2 (Mini)
Darker Image 1 Dark Horse Comic 1-6
Darkhawk 0 12,26,Ann 1 Doom 1-4
Death Head II 1,3(New!) Sabretor 1-4
Deathlok 3-8,10-14 16-20 22 Ann 1
Deathstroke 5,8,12,13,16-19,21-23
Dr. Strange 26,33 36,37,39 41-52
Excalibur 7,30,33,34,42-44,62,63
Fant Four 358,371,375 (1st - Lim 1)
Ghost Rider 15-24,29,30,32-34,36-38
Guardian Galaxy 5,18,21 23,26-37
Hellstorm 1,3 Hulk 383-387 394-403
Legends Dark Knight 1-12,20-38
Marvel 2099 1 Midnight Sons 1
Moebius 1-4,6,8 Mys-Tech Wars 2
Motormouth 1-7,9,11 Next Men 0,11

Nomad 2,3 Nomad II 0-12
New Titans 2 68,69,82,97 Ann 2,5,7,8
New Warriors 15-24,26-34, Ann 1,3
Punisher 28,34,57 63-72,74-77
Pun War Journal 29,33-35,41-44,50-53
Punisher War Zone 1,3-12,15 (Limit 2)
Punisher 2099 1,3 Ravage 1-3,6,7
Resurrection 1 2 Secret Defenders 1 2
Robin III 1,2-5 Sleepy 2000 1,4,8
Shadow Ball 1,2 5 Silver Surfer 57-78
Spect Spiderman 189(1st) 192-199
Spiderman 16 18,22-25,27 31,32
Uncanny X-Men 284-298,301-303
Web Spiderman 90(1st) Wild Star 1,2
Wolf # 26,37,38,40-49 (Limit 2)
Wolverine 50,52,55-73 (Limit 1)
X-Factor 70-83,88-91 93,94 (Lim 2)
X-Force 2-24 (Lim 2) Warheads 1,5-10
X-Men 1 (Wolv Cover), 17-24 (Limit 2)

$3.00 COMICS

Amazing Spiderman 365,375, Ann 27
Archer/Armstrong 9,11-14 Brigade 3,4
Batman 436,493-499 (1st Print Limit 1)
Bloodshot 3-5,8,9 Cable 1 (New!)
Deam 1,3 (Lim 1) Knights 1 (Lim 2)
Detective 660-666 (1st Print Limit 2)
Eternal Warrior 10-14 (Lim 2) JLA 71
Ghost Rider 1(Gold),25,26,3 (Lim 2)
Harbinger 18-22(Lim 2) Hells Angel 1-8
Hard Corp 2 (Lim 2) Infinity War 1,2
Lobo Back 1,2,4 Lobo Infanticide 1-6
Magnus 22-29 Marvel Comic 84,72,84
New Warriors 0-14 25 Nightstalkers 6
Omega Men 5,9,18 Pilot 2 (Lim 2)
Rai 9-14 (Limit 2) Robin 1 1-3 (1st)

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WHY BOTHER?
FATHER, YOU MUSN'T LET THE BITTERNESS OVERWHELM YOU. DON'T BLAME YOURSELF. YOU DIDN'T FAIL ME.
IT WAS I WHO FAILED TO BE UNDERSTANDING IN YOUR TIME OF NEED. I WHO WAS INADEQUATE.
I'M SORRY... AND ASHAMED... FOR ANY PAIN I EVER CAUSED YOU.
MY SON... THANK YOU. I CANNOT ABSOLVE MYSELF OF WHAT I HAVE DONE, BUT YOUR WORDS LIFT A BURDEN FROM MY HEART
I KNOW THAT I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
AND I YOU, FATHER.
YOU'VE BEEN APART FOR SO LONG I HATE TO SEPARATE YOU, BUT THE MOMENT'S FULLING IN. IT'S TIME FOR US TO BE GOING.
COMING, ELMAR. IT WILL BE JUST THE TWO OF US...

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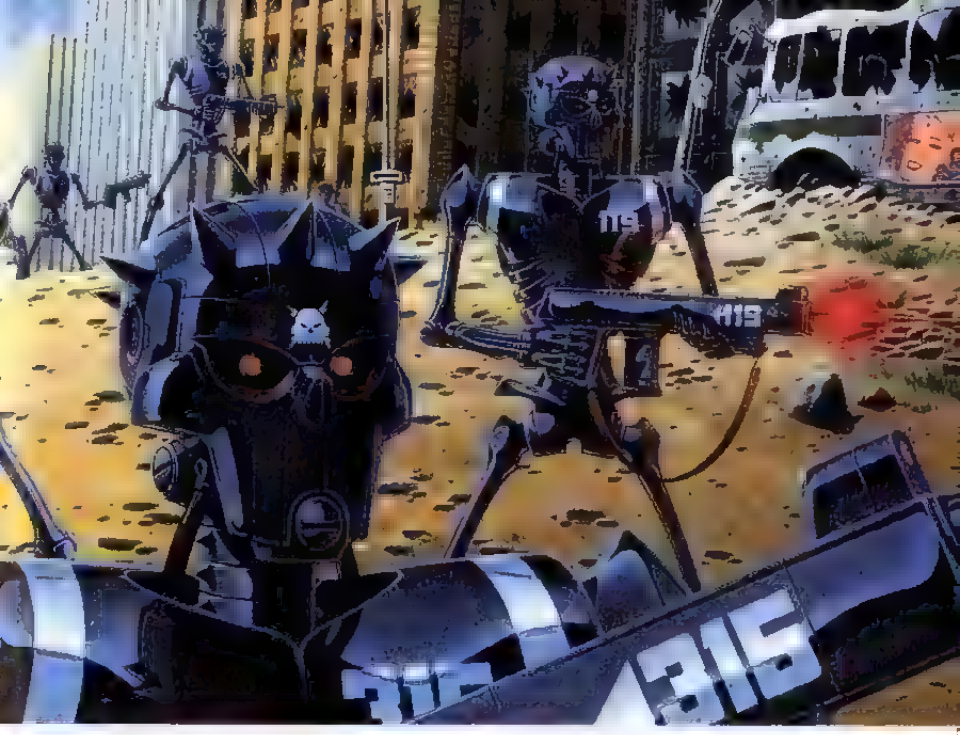

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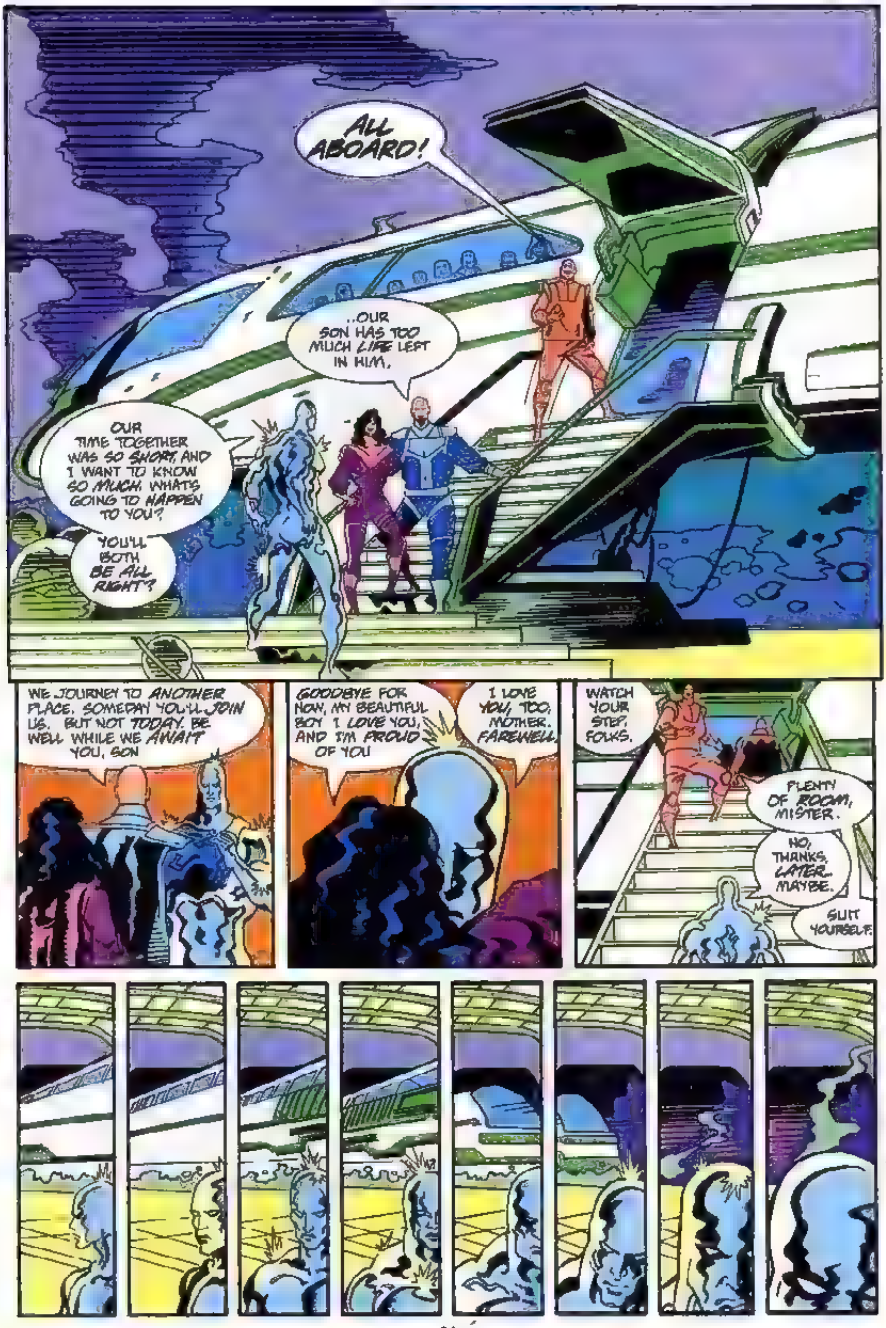
ALL ABOARD!
..OUR SON HAS TOO MUCH LIFE LEFT IN HIM.
OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS SO SHORT, AND I WANT TO KNOW SO MUCH. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU?
YOU'LL BOTH BE ALL RIGHT?
WE JOURNEY TO ANOTHER PLACE. SOMEDAY YOU'LL JOIN US. BUT NOT TODAY. BE WELL WHILE WE AWAIT YOU, SON
GOODBYE FOR NOW, MY BEAUTIFUL BOY. I LOVE YOU, AND I'M PROUD OF YOU!
I LOVE YOU, TOO, MOTHER. FAREWELL.
WATCH YOUR STEP, FOLKS.
PLENTY OF ROOM, MISTER.
NO, THANKS. LATER. MAYBE.
SUIT YOURSELF.

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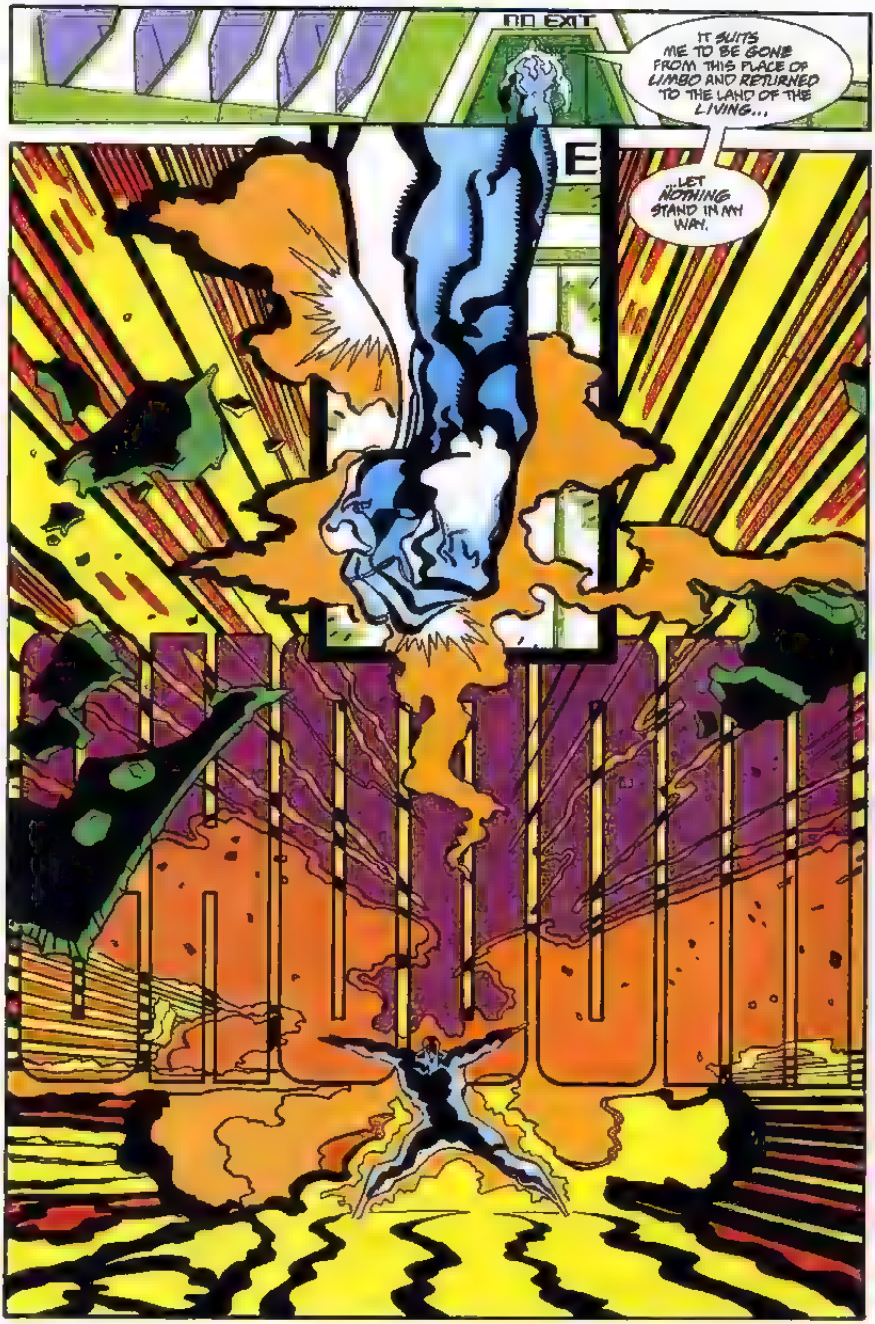

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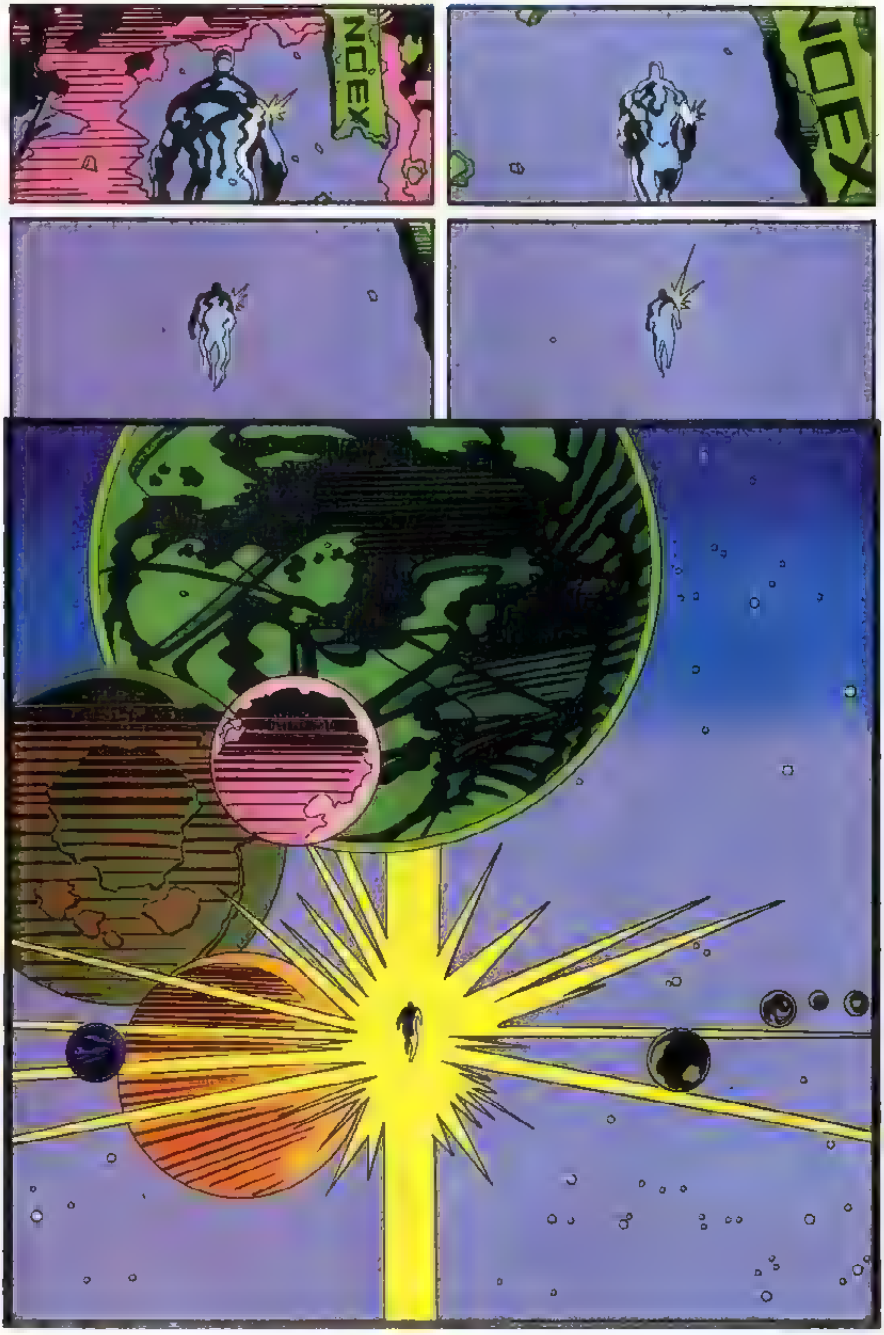

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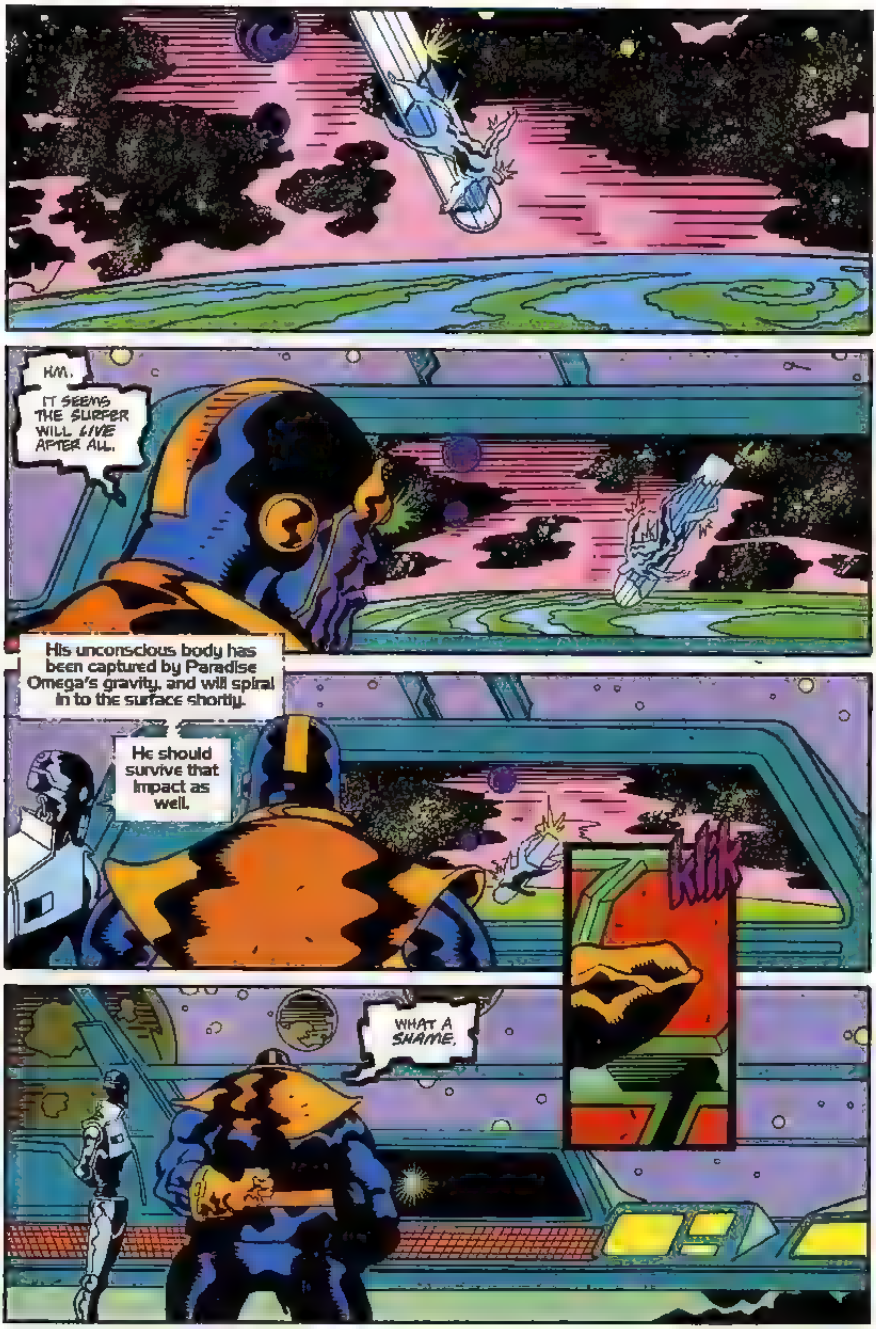
HM.
IT SEEMS THE SURFER WILL LIVE AFTER ALL.
His unconscious body has been captured by Paradise Omega's gravity, and will spiral in to the surface shortly.
He should survive that impact as well.
KIK
WHAT A SHAME.

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Editor Craig Anderson Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust
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Attention Correspondents. All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Cosmic People,

I have to congratulate you on the tremendous six-part "Herald Ordeal" storyline. It was simply fantastic. The story and art were, as always, on top form. Your covers are great, especially issue #78 which was my favorite. They are so colorful and outstanding that they make all the other comics on sale look really dull. The latest SURFER story will no doubt be a very interesting one. I'm glad to see that you let Morg survive the battle in issue #75, by the way. Although he is a really nasty character and deserved to die, he is a worthy foe for our hero. I hope that Airwalker and Firelord will be around for a while too.

I have just a few questions to ask:

1. When did the Surfer make his very first appearance?
2. Is there any chance of seeing a Firelord action figure in the near future?
3. When will Mephisto return?

Keep the team together forever—they are the best!

William Trainor
47 Fawcett
Birch Green,
Skelmersdale
Lancashire
WN8 8RR
England

Gee, William, your address was so long, we don't know if we even have room for the answer, but for you, we'll try:

1. FANTASTIC FOUR #48, recently reprinted in a SILVER SURFER trade paperback titled :"The Coming of Galactus!"

2. Sorry, no plans for that yet.

3. Mephisto is currently appearing in THE INFINITY CRUSADE.

Dear Cosmic Pipeline,

You can't be sure of anything these days—constant weather changes, increasing unemployment—yet still, every month without fail, team SURFER produces the most engrossing, well-drawn, fabulously written comic on sale today. I would just like to thank everyone included in this wonderful monthly occurrence. Special compliments on the "Herald Ordeal", probably the most intense and tragic saga I have read in any comic to date. May Nova rest in peace. Although I think the question on many minds is will she be returning? Well, until Morg becomes a nice, friendly sort of guy, make mine Marvel!

Conn Finlay
9 Abbeymount
Grey Abbey
Co. Down
N. Ireland

Gee, Conn, yet another one of those long addresses! But, if you are going to stick around until Morg is a nice guy, we guess we had better get used to typing your address, because you are going to be around for a long time!

Dear Marvel,

After issue #78, I can still say SILVER SURFER is the best title in the market. I have been collecting SILVER SURFER comics for at least two years. I really enjoyed SILVER SURFER #74 with the "Herald Ordeal" but I missed issue #75 and I haven't been able to get it at any comic stores. Is there any other way I could get it?

Kevin Rainbow
95 Aitken Cr.
Regina, Sask.
S4R 5Z3

Well, Kevin, the only advice we can give you is to check any conventions that come to your area. Or, Maybe a helpful fan will write to you at your address after seeing this letter. Surfer readers have to stick together, after all.

In the meantime, pick up an issue each month so you won't have to go searching for it later.

NEXT ISSUE: The Surfer has landed! But he's on Paradise Omega, the Goddess's planet, and he's barely alive. And then there's the welcoming committee—Wonder Man and Storm—who wants to make sure that the Surfer never recovers. The sparks fly in thirty days—be here!

A SURFER EXTRA: Keep your eyes peeled for this year's SILVER SURFER ANNUAL, featuring stories about Terrax, Jack of Hearts, Ganymede and introducing a *new* super hero who's going to shake the Marvel cosmos—*Legacy*! (And wait until you see who his parents are!) Don't miss this one!

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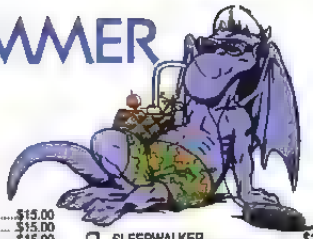

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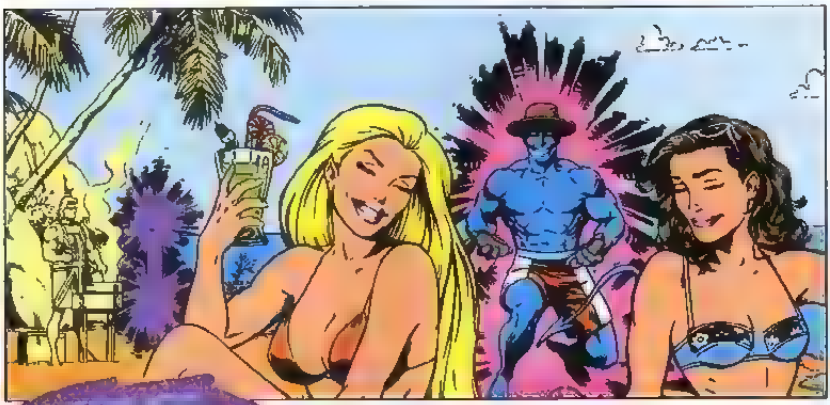

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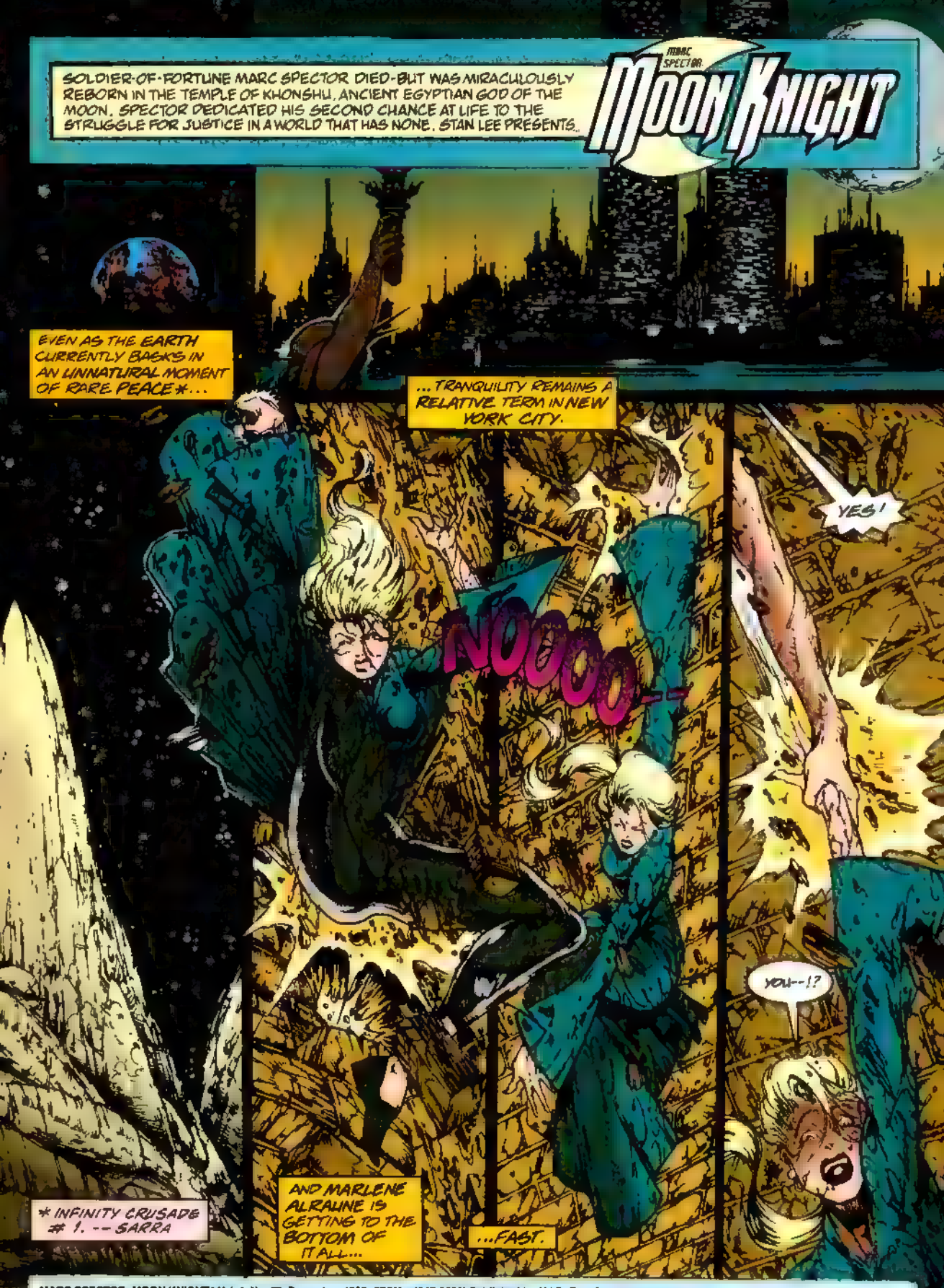
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MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT
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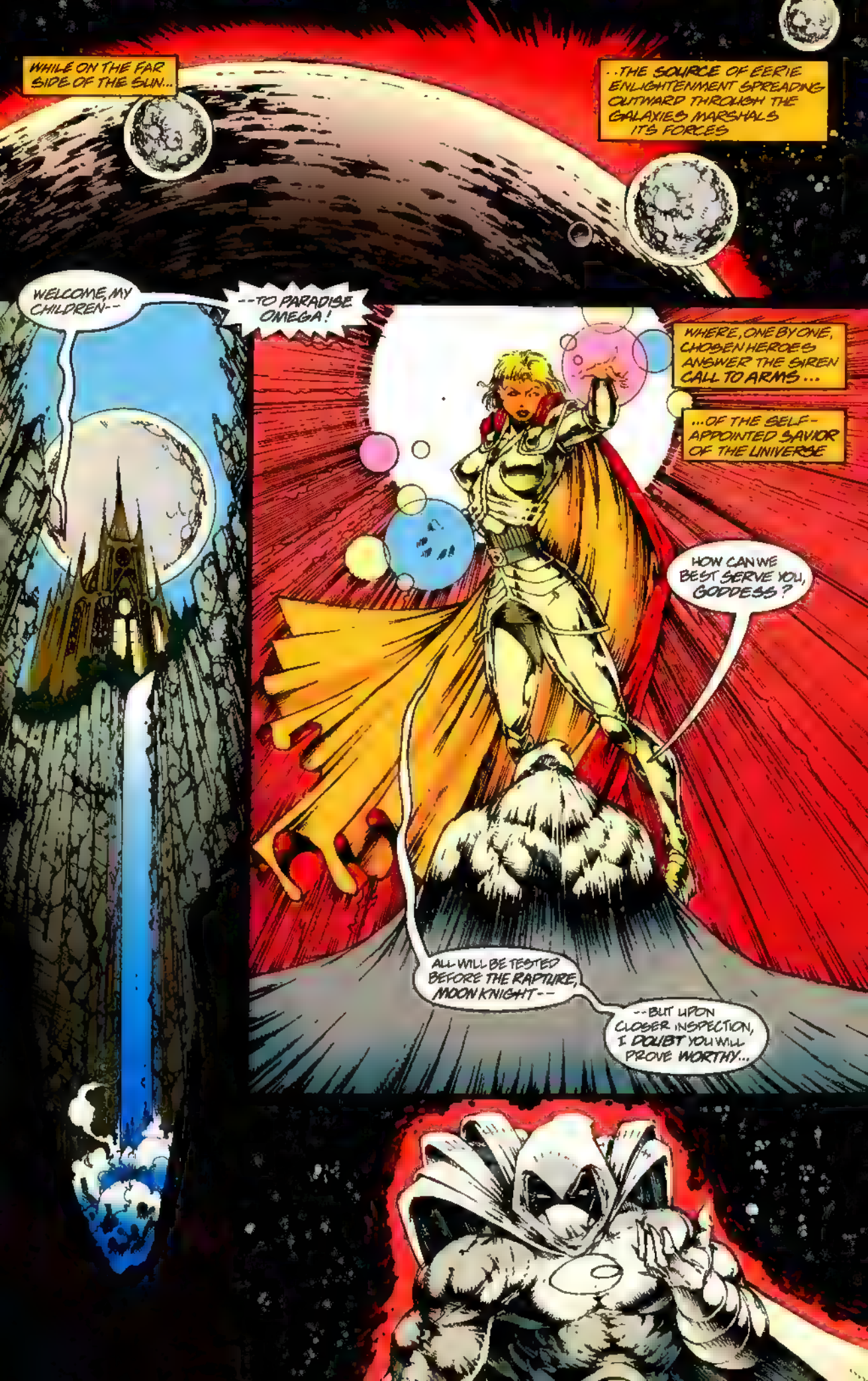
...TRANQUILITY REMAINS A RELATIVE TERM IN NEW YORK CITY.
NOOOO--
YES!
AND MARLENE ALRAUNE IS GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF IT ALL...
...FAST.
you--!?
* INFINITY CRUSADE #1. -- SARRA

MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT* Vol. 1, No. 57, December, 1993. (ISSN #1047-8299) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.75 per copy in the U.S. and $2.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $21.00, foreign $33.00, and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

FOR ONCE, MARLENE.
...DON'T FIGHT ME.
DONNA KRAFT...!?
"JUST FIND SOME LEVERAGE ON WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR TERRACE...
...AND PUSH LIKE OUR LIVES DEPEND ON--
WUMP
CALLED HALF THE LOCAL SISTERS IN THE ALUMNI DIRECTORY BEFORE I FOUND ANYONE WHO'D SEEN YOU SINCE YOU LEFT FOR EGYPT WITH YOUR FATHER AFTER GRADUATION, ALRAUNE--
--AND EVEN THE SIGMA '84 ON YOUR CO-OP BOARD WILL PROBABLY DENY HER ASSOCIATION NOW--
--BUT I HARDLY EXPECTED US TO WORK TOGETHER QUITE SO WELL WHEN I FIRST SAW YOUR NAME IN SPECTOR'S PERSONAL FILES.
GLAD MARC TRUSTED MY WRITTEN SUGGESTIONS EVEN AFTER I... LEFT HIM LAST YEAR --
YOU RECOMMENDED YOUR OLD SCHOOL RIVAL TO SPECTORCORP...!?
MY ONLY RIVAL, KRAFT--THE LOGICAL CHOICE FOR MY SUCCESSOR..
...MAKING THIS MONSTER NAMED SETH PHALKON OUR MUTAL PROBLEM.


WHILE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN...
..THE SOURCE OF EERIE ENLIGHTENMENT SPREADING OUTWARD THROUGH THE GALAXIES MARSHALS ITS FORCES
WELCOME, MY CHILDREN--
--TO PARADISE OMEGA!
WHERE, ONE BY ONE, CHOSEN HEROES ANSWER THE SIREN CALL TO ARMS...
...OF THE SELF-APPOINTED SAVIOR OF THE UNIVERSE
HOW CAN WE BEST SERVE YOU, GODDESS?
ALL WILL BE TESTED BEFORE THE RAPTURE, MOON KNIGHT--
--BUT UPON CLOSER INSPECTION, I DOUBT YOU WILL PROVE WORTHY...

"...TO SWELL THE RANKS OF MY INFINITY CRUSADE."

BLACK SHEEP

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STEPHEN PLATT - ARTIST
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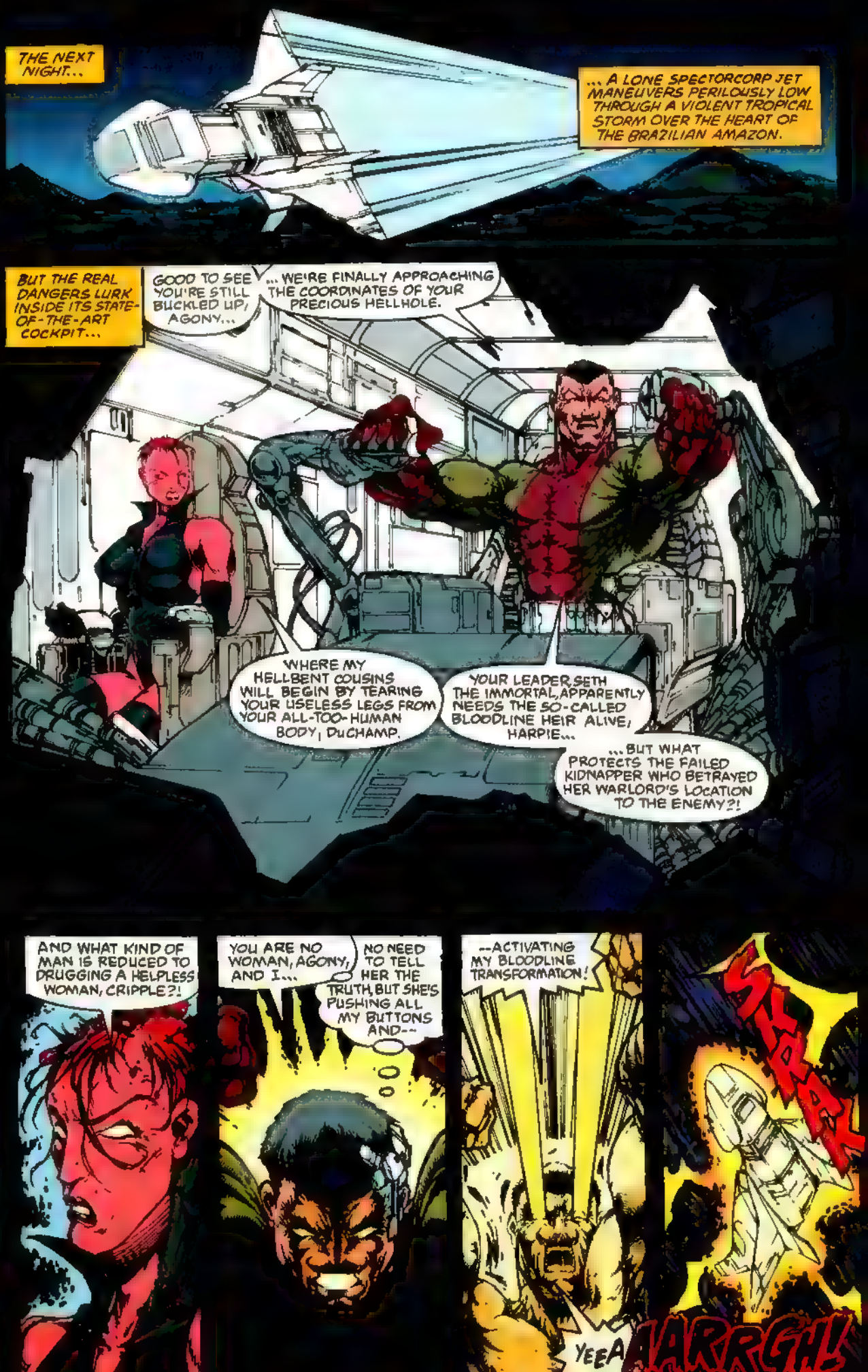
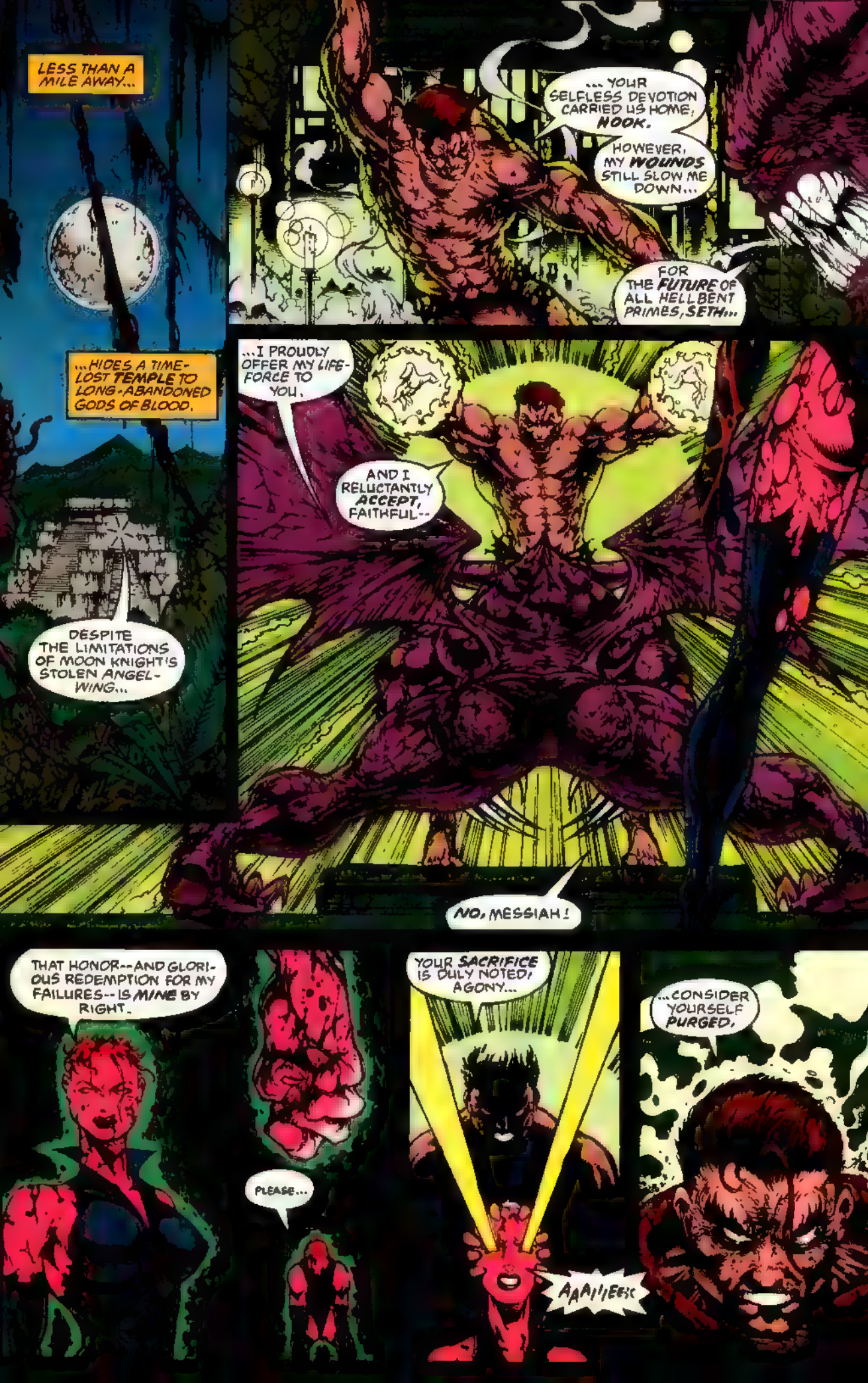
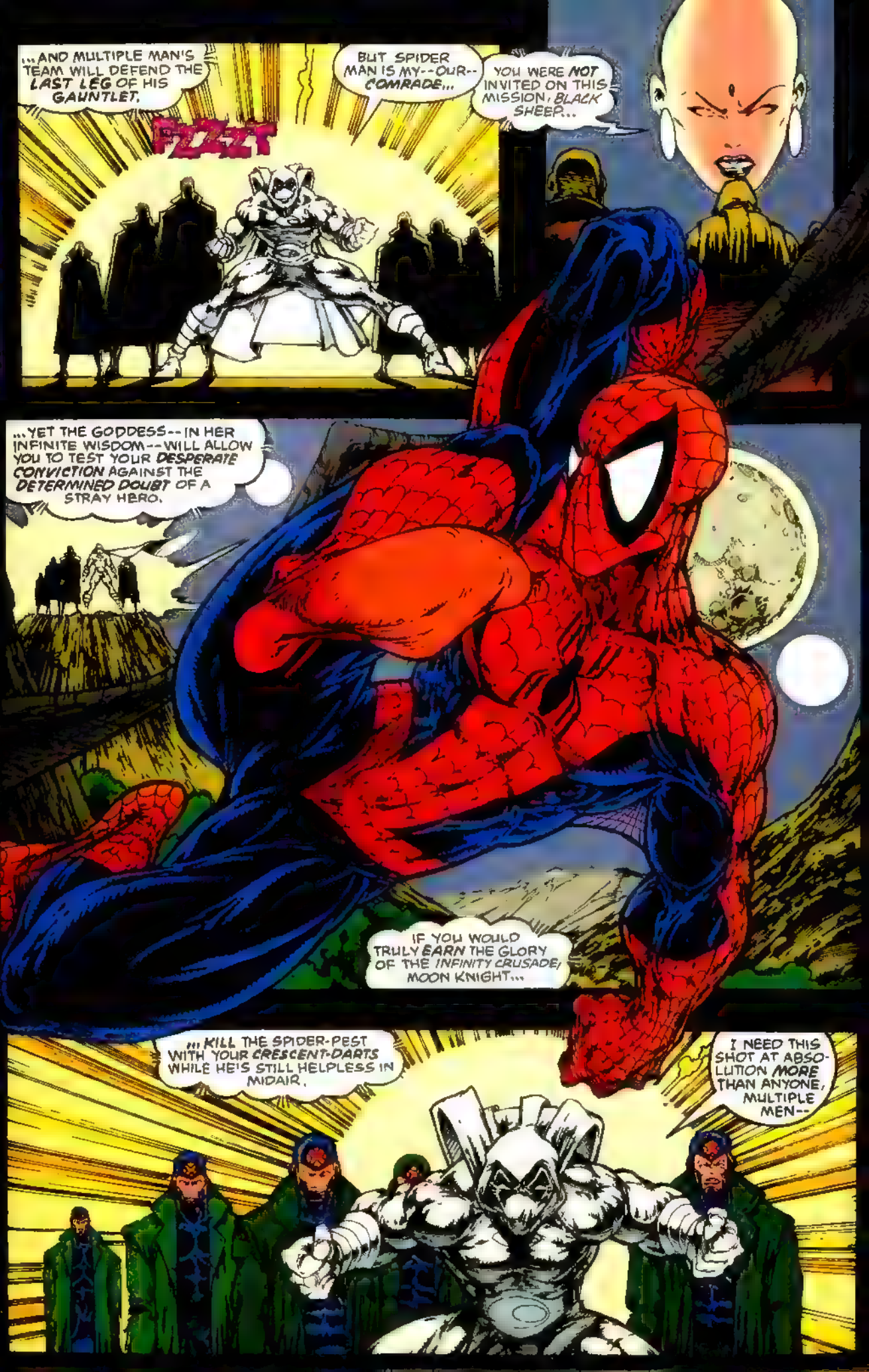

THE NEXT NIGHT...
... A LONE SPECTORCORP JET MANEUVERS PERILOUSLY LOW THROUGH A VIOLENT TROPICAL STORM OVER THE HEART OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON.
BUT THE REAL DANGERS LURK INSIDE ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART COCKPIT...
GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL BUCKLED UP, AGONY...
... WE'RE FINALLY APPROACHING THE COORDINATES OF YOUR PRECIOUS HELLHOLE.
WHERE MY HELLBENT COUSINS WILL BEGIN BY TEARING YOUR USELESS LEGS FROM YOUR ALL-TOO-HUMAN BODY, DuCHAMP.
YOUR LEADER, SETH THE IMMORTAL, APPARENTLY NEEDS THE SO-CALLED BLOODLINE HEIR ALIVE, HARPIE...
...BUT WHAT PROTECTS THE FAILED KIDNAPPER WHO BETRAYED HER WARLORD'S LOCATION TO THE ENEMY?!
AND WHAT KIND OF MAN IS REDUCED TO DRUGGING A HELPLESS WOMAN, CRIPPLE?!
YOU ARE NO WOMAN, AGONY, AND I...
NO NEED TO TELL HER THE TRUTH, BUT SHE'S PUSHING ALL MY BUTTONS AND--
--ACTIVATING MY BLOODLINE TRANSFORMATION!
SHRAK
YEEA
AARRGH!

AGAIN...?!
THE LEGENDARY HENRI REMONT HIMSELF--?!
SILENCE, HELL BENT...
...THIS TWINKLING SLAB OF IRON IS CONFOUNDING ENOUGH.
MY CUE TO FIND THE EJECT BUTTON...
CHIK
...AND MAKE A HASTY EXIT!
FWWT
KNEW I WAS BETTER OFF TAKING MY CHANCES WITH THE WEATHER...
...BUT IT ALMOST LOOKED LIKE BLOODLINE'S PIRATE INCARNATION WAS ABOUT TO GRASP THE MECHANICS OF THAT DASH-BOARD.
AND AN 18TH-CENTURY FRENCHMAN'S INSTANT MASTERY OF MODERN ENGLISH IS ANOTHER MYSTERY...
KABOOM
"...THAT WILL NEVER BE EXPLAINED NOW."
"FAREWELL, JEAN-PAUL..."
"YOU CAME FAR CLOSER THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW."


LESS THAN A MILE AWAY...
...YOUR SELFLESS DEVOTION CARRIED US HOME, HOOK.
HOWEVER, MY WOUNDS STILL SLOW ME DOWN...
FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL HELL BENT PRIMES, SETH...
...HIDES A TIME-LOST TEMPLE TO LONG-ABANDONED GODS OF BLOOD.
...I PROUDLY OFFER MY LIFE-FORCE TO YOU.
AND I RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT, FAITHFUL--
DESPITE THE LIMITATIONS OF MOON KNIGHT'S STOLEN ANGEL-WING...
NO, MESSIAH!
THAT HONOR--AND GLORIOUS REDEMPTION FOR MY FAILURES--IS MINE BY RIGHT.
PLEASE...
YOUR SACRIFICE IS DULY NOTED, AGONY...
AAA!!EEE!
...CONSIDER YOURSELF PURGED.

SETH'S COMPUTER ROOM. LATER...
I USED THE TEMPLARS TO MANIPULATE MY HEIRS INTO RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CONCURRENT BLOODLINES IN EVERY GENERATION...
...AND THEY NEVER SUSPECTED IT.
IT APPEARS MARC SPECTOR HAS ALREADY CHANGED THE SECURITY CODES TO HIS SHADOWKEEP--
TEK
TEK
SO MY INSIDE INFORMANT IS NO LONGER OF USE TO ME AS SUCH.
THOUGH SPECTOR'S DUAL IDENTITY AS MOON KNIGHT DESTROYED MY PLANS FOR A SOCIAL POWER-BASE IN THIS CENTURY...
...A TRUE IMMORTAL ALWAYS HAS TIME ON HIS SIDE.
"ZERO HOUR" Infiltration Mode: Continuous Cipher-Breaking Forays
Access Route BL-6H DENIED
DEACTIVATE THE HOLO-WALL, HOOK...
...OUR CONTINGENCY PROGRAM WILL INSURE THAT MY CURSED GREAT GRANDSPAWN IS SOON PUNISHED.
MY PRIMARY AGENDA--AND THE VERY DESTINY OF ALL HELLBENT PRIMES--AWAITS US...
...THROUGH THE LAST GATE TO HELLHOLE.

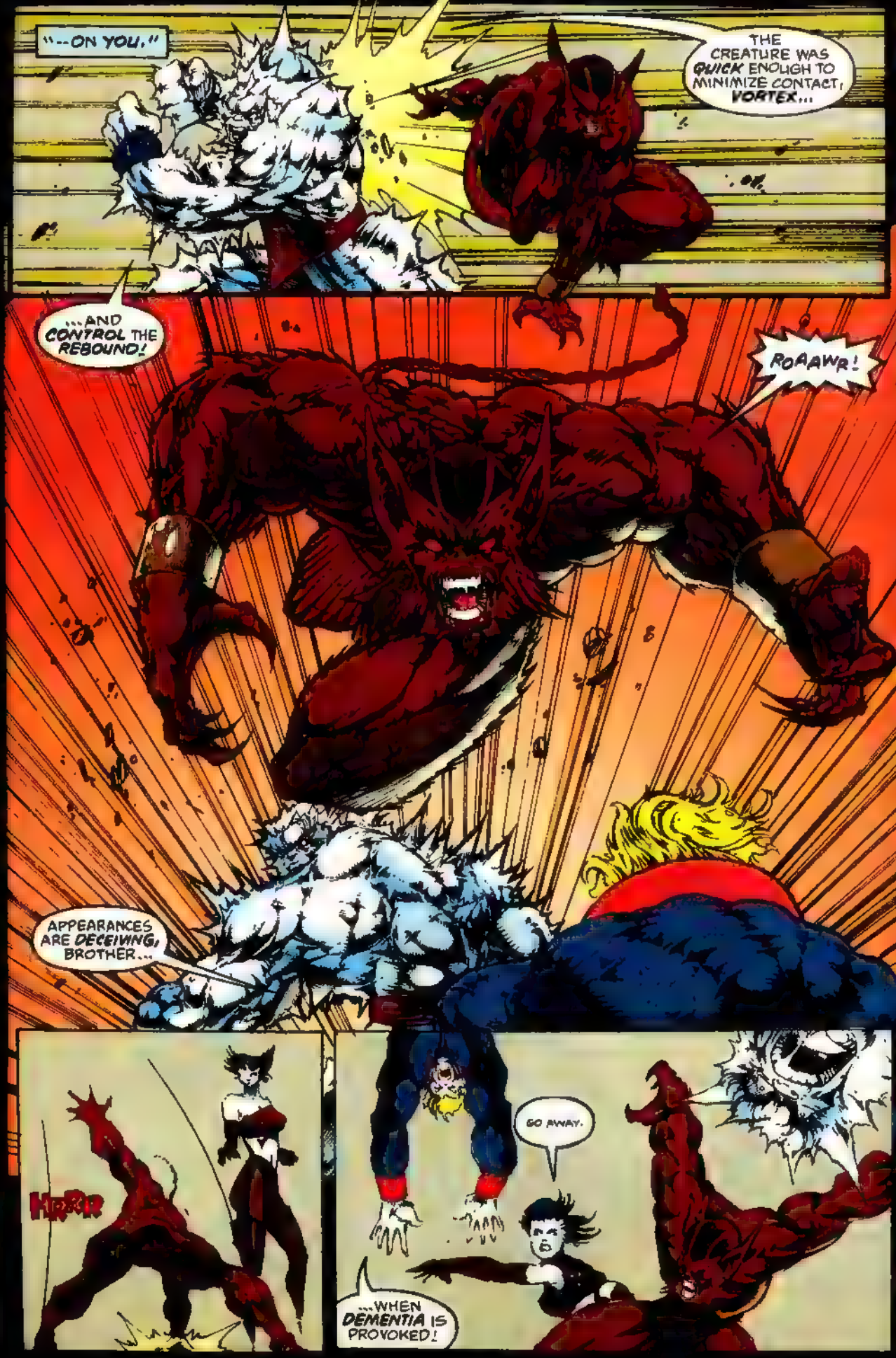
WHILE THE ENIGMATIC GODDESS RETREATS INTO THE NEAR-OMNIPOTENT COSMIC EGG FAR BENEATH HER CATHEDRAL ON PARADISE OMEGA...*
* INFINITY CRUSADE #3.--Ed.
...THE CONVERTED EAGERLY AWAIT THE TELEPATHIC COMMANDS OF THEIR ANNOINTED FIELD LEADER--
--THE PSI-PRIESTESS KNOWN AS MOONDRAGON.
THE GODDESS REQUIRES VOLUNTEERS TO ENLIGHTEN A POTENTIAL NON-BELIEVER IN OUR MIDST, CRUSADERS.
THOR, SASQUATCH, ARCHANGEL, GAMORA, INVISIBLE WOMAN, QUICKSILVER, SCARLET WITCH AND AS MANY MULTIPLE MEN AS WE CAN SPARE...
...GATHER IMMEDIATELY AT THE TELEPORTUS FOR FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE ASSIGNMENT.
NOT WITHOUT ME, 'DRAGON...
...THIS COULD BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO PROVE THAT THE GODDESS'S ENEMY IS MY--
FLIT
SPIDEY?!
NO!
SPIDER-MAN MUST NOT REACH THE CATHEDRAL...

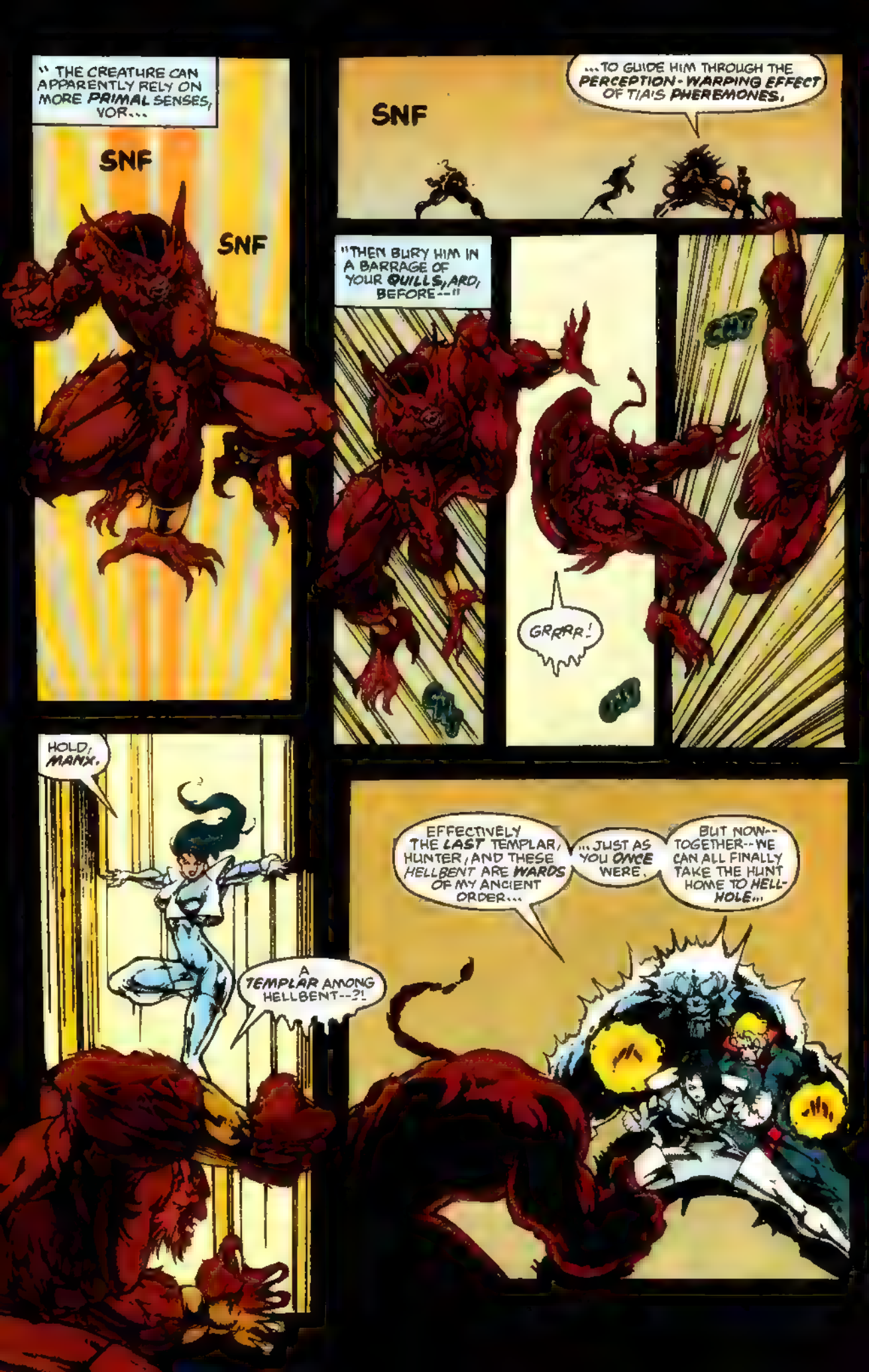

...AND MULTIPLE MAN'S TEAM WILL DEFEND THE LAST LEG OF HIS GAUNTLET.
FZZZT
BUT SPIDER MAN IS MY--OUR--COMRADE...
YOU WERE NOT INVITED ON THIS MISSION, BLACK SHEEP...
...YET THE GODDESS--IN HER INFINITE WISDOM--WILL ALLOW YOU TO TEST YOUR DESPERATE CONVICTION AGAINST THE DETERMINED DOUBT OF A STRAY HERO.
IF YOU WOULD TRULY EARN THE GLORY OF THE INFINITY CRUSADE, MOON KNIGHT...
...KILL THE SPIDER-PEST WITH YOUR CRESCENT-DARTS WHILE HE'S STILL HELPLESS IN MIDAIR.
I NEED THIS SHOT AT ABSOLUTION MORE THAN ANYONE, MULTIPLE MEN--

--ANCHOR ME!
WEB-GLIDER CAN'T MANEUVER FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE...
...MOON KNIGHT AND MULTIPLE MAN TOGETHER!
"JUST WANTED TO STOP HIM--
--BUT SPIDER-MAN'S ALREADY GAINED ENOUGH SLACK ON MY TRUNCHEON LINE TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.
HE'S GIVING ME NO CHOICE...!
CRUNCH

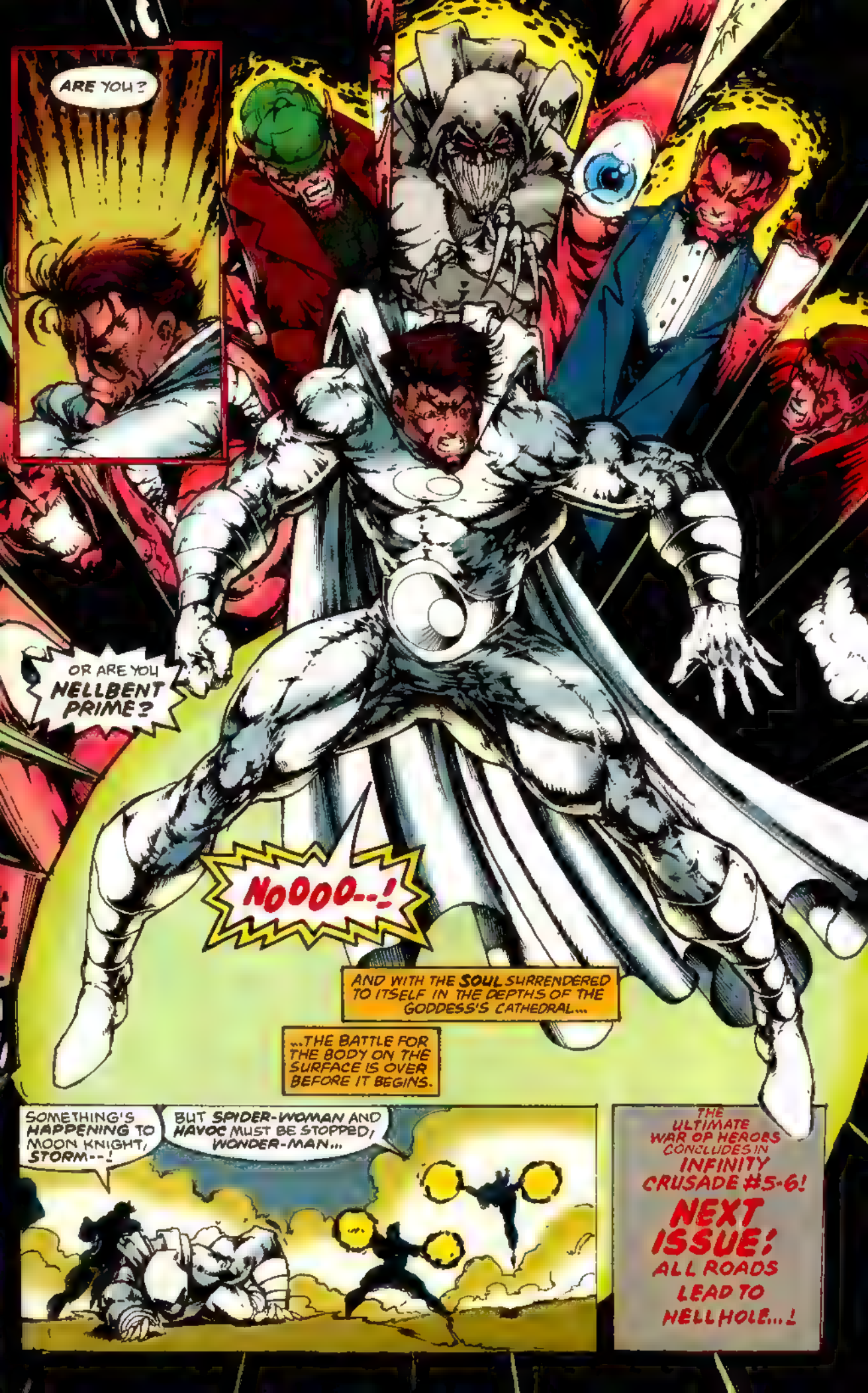
"MOON KNIGHT WOULD GLADLY DIE YET AGAIN...
"...TO BE WORTHY OF THE GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY YOU DARE QUESTION, SPIDER-MAN--!"
BUT YOU'LL BE WAY TOO BUSY KEEPING CARNAGE UNCONSCIOUS, VENOM...
VENOM--?! CARNA-- UHNG!!
KWOK
...OR NOT.
THE DOUBTER'S TENSING TO JUMP, FELLAS...
* SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #105 FOR A VERY DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE SAME STORY. --Sarra
...BUT HE CAN'T EXPECT TO REACH THE GODDESS'S CATHEDRAL FROM HERE!*
"ALTHOUGH THE IMPACT ONLY CREATED MORE MULTIPLE MEN...
...I LET SPIDER-MAN GET TOO CLOSE.
AND I FAILED...
FZZT

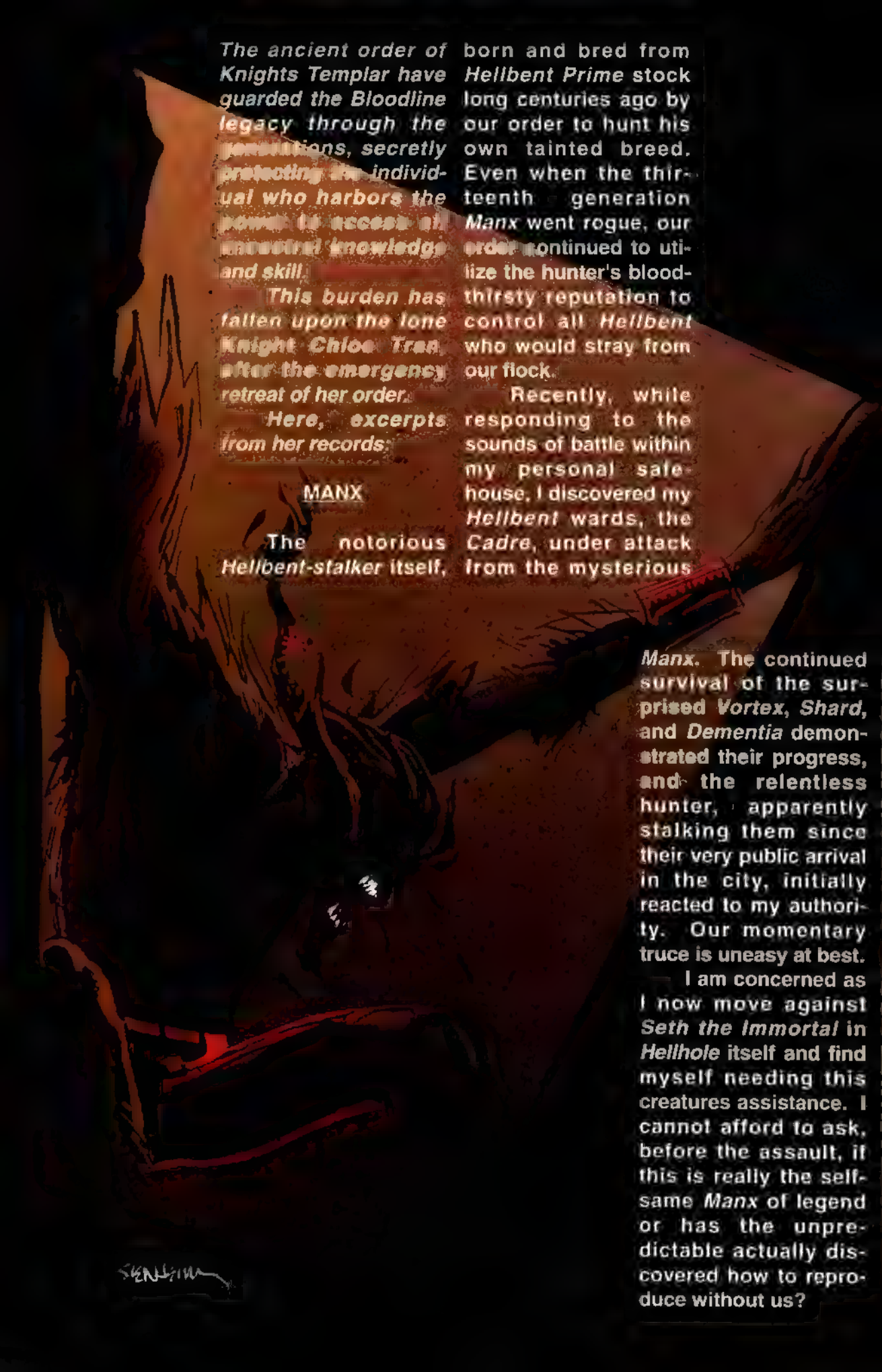
LOWER MANHATTAN--
...AS WELL AS THE SAVAGE PREDATORS THAT INSTINCTIVELY KNOW THEIR WEAK SPOTS.
SNF SNF
--WELCOME HOST TO THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY'S FRINGE ELEMENTS...
HSSS...
SKRAHK
WHO--?!
PROTECT OUR SISTER, SHARD...
...NO ONE THREATENS THE CADRE IN OUR OWN HOME!
MY WINDS WILL IMPALE THE VICIOUS BEAST--
VROOOSH


"--ON YOU."
THE CREATURE WAS QUICK ENOUGH TO MINIMIZE CONTACT, VORTEX...
...AND CONTROL THE REBOUND!
ROAAWR!
APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING, BROTHER...
HORROR
GO AWAY.
...WHEN DEMENTIA IS PROVOKED!


" THE CREATURE CAN APPARENTLY RELY ON MORE PRIMAL SENSES, VOR...
SNF
SNF
SNF
...TO GUIDE HIM THROUGH THE PERCEPTION-WARPING EFFECT OF TIA'S PHEREMONES.
"THEN BURY HIM IN A BARRAGE OF YOUR QUILLS, ARD, BEFORE--"
CHT
GRRRR!
HOLD, MANX.
A TEMPLAR AMONG HELLBENT--?!
EFFECTIVELY THE LAST TEMPLAR, HUNTER, AND THESE HELLBENT ARE WARDS OF MY ANCIENT ORDER...
"...JUST AS YOU ONCE WERE.
BUT NOW--TOGETHER--WE CAN ALL FINALLY TAKE THE HUNT HOME TO HELL-HOLE..."

PARADISE OMEGA...
WHERE--?
DOES IT MATTER?
MOONDRAGON...? GODDESS...?
DOES IT MATTER?
AM I BEING DEPRIVED OF THE INFINITY CRUSADE AS PUNISHMENT FOR MY REFUSAL TO KILL FOR THE HEAVENLY CAUSE?
DO YOU DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED?
I WANT TO BE REDEEMED.
DO YOU NEED REDEMPTION?
I'VE DEVOTED MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE--UNDER THE MANTLE OF MOON KNIGHT-- TO ATONING FOR THE SINS OF MY YOUTH AS A MERCENARY...
...AND THE BLOOD I SPILLED.
DOES THIS ABSOLVE THE SINS OF YOUR FORE-FATHERS...
...AND YOUR OWN TAINTED BLOOD?
I'M ONLY HUMAN!


ARE YOU?
OR ARE YOU NELLBENT PRIME?
NOOOO--!
AND WITH THE SOUL SURRENDERED TO ITSELF IN THE DEPTHS OF THE GODDESS'S CATHEDRAL...
...THE BATTLE FOR THE BODY ON THE SURFACE IS OVER BEFORE IT BEGINS.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO MOON KNIGHT, STORM--!
BUT SPIDER-WOMAN AND HAVOC MUST BE STOPPED, WONDER-MAN...
THE ULTIMATE WAR OF HEROES CONCLUDES IN INFINITY CRUSADE #5-6!
NEXT ISSUE!
ALL ROADS LEAD TO HELLHOLE...!



The ancient order of Knights Templar have guarded the Bloodline legacy through the generations, secretly protecting the individual who harbors the power to access the unnatural knowledge and skill.

This burden has fallen upon the lone Knight Chloe Tran after the emergency retreat of her order.

Here, excerpts from her records:

MANX

The notorious *Hellbent-stalker* itself, born and bred from *Hellbent Prime* stock long centuries ago by our order to hunt his own tainted breed. Even when the thirteenth generation *Manx* went rogue, our order continued to utilize the hunter's bloodthirsty reputation to control all *Hellbent* who would stray from our flock.

Recently, while responding to the sounds of battle within my personal safehouse, I discovered my *Hellbent* wards, the *Cadre*, under attack from the mysterious *Manx*. The continued survival of the surprised *Vortex*, *Shard*, and *Dementia* demonstrated their progress, and the relentless hunter, apparently stalking them since their very public arrival in the city, initially reacted to my authority. Our momentary truce is uneasy at best.

I am concerned as I now move against *Seth the Immortal* in *Hellhole* itself and find myself needing this creatures assistance. I cannot afford to ask, before the assault, if this is really the selfsame *Manx* of legend or has the unpredictable actually discovered how to reproduce without us?

CADRE
Hellbent foundlings discovered on the doorstep of our upstate N.Y. monastery nineteen years ago. A human female, presumably their mother, was seen leaving the grounds that night, suggesting that the triplets share a rare mixed heritage with an actual *Hellbent Prime*.
Secretly sheltered by our ancient order, the wind-wielding *Vortex*, the quill-firing *Shard* and the senses-warping *Dementia* developed into the *Cadre*. They are currently on a forbidden quest to find their mother in New York City.
I have secretly followed them, but must now enjoin them in my mission to *Hellhole* against the traitorous *Seth*.

LUNAR CLIPS

SARRA MOSSOFF
editor

KARL BOLLERS
assistant editor

C/O MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, 387 PARK AVE. SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFORMATION UPON REQUEST.

SARRA SAYS...

Hey, do we have a treat for you! In this issue and next, we feature several pages of pin-ups by past MOON KNIGHT master, Bill Sienkiewicz. For you newcomers out there, it was Bill's dark and moody rendition of MK that set this title ablaze oh, say . . .twelve years ago! Who says lightning doesn't strike twice?

Dear Lunar Clips,

The other day I dug out my MOON KNIGHT collection and started rereading from issue #1. To me, the first encounter in that issue embodies what Moon Knight stands for, beyond all the galactic wars and international plots in his comic and in the rest of the Marvel Universe. Perhaps it is this part of him that makes the Fist of Konshu my hands-down favorite.

Sure, other big-city heroes may have similar jobs (Spider-Man, Daredevil), and others are heroes in name only (Ghost Rider, Punisher), but none have the subtle, dark mystique of Moon Knight. So, after reading a few issues and listening to some Andreas Vollenweider, I felt kind of inspired to scribble down a few lines; my tribute to the greatest hero:

Racing the edge between shadow and light
ethereal vapor
in the blink of an eye
Your cause is vengeance, not justice or might
the mantle of Khonshu
is your reason why.

Riding the midnight on moonbeams you dance
not mighty Avenger nor humble freelance
Your quarry not gods or of great cosmic power
but the back alley darkside of twelve o'clock hour
Gliding the silvery shafts of the moon
The night-song of the streets your favorite tune
Forever the loner but never alone
you are the sinner who cast the first stone.

Twice-born paladin of the weak and defenseless
you became chosen
that still desert night
to battle the underworld, twisted and senseless
You are the edge
between shadow and light.

A spectacular job has been done by all who have worked on Marc Spector: Moon Knight, past and present!

Tony Pink
1465 Churchill
Girard, OH

The muse speaks to you, Tony!

Dear Lunar Clips,

MOON KNIGHT #55 was the first time I had ever bought an MK comic. I was pretty impressed, if not a little confused, though I guess that's understandable since it's my first foray into Moon Knight territory.

The art is what caught my eye as I looked through the numerous comics on the shelf. I've got to hand it to Mr. Platt, his pencils were excellent. I'd like to learn more about some of the characters in the book, and I'm planning on picking up your book again next month.

Aaron Childress
360 Wimpole Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211

Do stick around, Aaron! We promise you'll learn more about everybody who's caught up in this lunar phase! Issue #55 might've been the first time you picked up this title, but it certainly won't be the last!

Dear Knight Lines,

I started collecting this book less than a year ago and it gets better every month. I just have four requests:

1. More of the Bloodline.
2. A team-up with Darkhawk.
3. An appearance by Thunderstrike.
4. A battle with Venom.

Stephen Loiaconi
(Address withheld by request)

OK, Stephen, here goes:

1. Bloodline, a.k.a. Jean-Paul "Frenchie" DuChamp is an integral part of MOON KNIGHT. Keep an eye on the next few issues to see some astonishing interaction between this title's namesake and it's newest super hero!

2. Well, a one-on-one team-up isn't in the cards right now, but this issue has more guest stars than you can shake an adamantium frame at!

3. Well, would you settle for Thor in this issue?

4. Unfortunately, old Slabber Mouth has his hands quite full at the moment. . .handling the juggernaut in his new mini-series!

Dear Sarra and Karl,

Like almost every other letter you will receive about issue #55, I am writing in praise of Stephen Platt's pencils. This issue has won the Scott Ziemba Award for artwork this week. His attention to detail as well as the crispness of all the lines shows how well the art team does together.

It also seems like Terry's subplots are really coming together. It seems that Terry has found his niche and is getting through all of the subplots and making the comic interesting again. My interest is back with this comic.

Until next time, make mine MK!

Scott Ziemba
1540 W. Elmdale
Chicago, IL

Unfortunately, Stephen couldn't be here tonight, as he's hard at work on his next issue, but he would like to thank the Academy. . . whoops, wrong award! Seriously, Scott, we're tickled pink that Stephen got your prestigious award!

Dear Lunar Clips,

MOON KNIGHT #55 blew me away! I had stopped reading this book, but now I am definitely putting it back on my list of "must reads." Stephen Platt's art is fantastic! With him on the book, it's sure to become one of the hottest comics around. I also like the story line, but I'll have to get some back issues to bring myself up-to-date. Now you have a regular reader here! Just keep Stephen Platt!

C.J. Turner
(Address withheld by request)

Don't worry, old pal, we're holding onto him! What's that, Stephen? You want to take a break? You actually want to eat something? Ha! Yeah, right. Ahem, anyway C.J., welcome back to the fold and if you think Mr. Platt's artwork is taking the industry by storm, we think you'll be no less astonished by next issue's fab guest artist, Fred Haynes!

Dear Lunar Clips,

I just read Moon Knight #55 and thought it was great! Stephen Platt does the best rendition of Moon Knight that I've ever seen. Normally, I'm not a MOON KNIGHT reader, although I've always liked the character and the few stories on him that I've read. This book has really come together!

The cover really made me pick up the book. Although the story line was great, I'm not really familiar with the plots. I catch on fast, though!

Thanks for renewing my interest in MOON KNIGHT.

Andrew Kelem
21 Oakwood Terrace
Rockaway, NJ

Hey — another convert! Thanks, Andrew! Geez, Stephen is getting more followers than the Goddess!

NEXT: Moon Knight goes from Paradise (Omega, that is) straight to Hell (Hole, we mean). The final blow-out with Seth the Immortal begins, and everyone's invited, including Bloodline and the Cadre! See ya in thirty!

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THE EVE OF THE APOCALYPSE!
DIRECT EDITION
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WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND THEY IS US. - POGO.
HOLY WAR!
SEVERAL MILES ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET PARADISE OMEGA.
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR WORKING WITH THE BRAIN DEAD.
BRUCE OLD BOY YOU RIGHTEOUSLY DESERVE BEING HELPLESSLY ADRIFT IN OUTER SPACE.

JIM STARLIN WRITER

RON LIM PENCILS

AL MILGROM INKER

JACK MORELLI LETTERS

TOM VINCENT WITH MIKE KENNY COLORS

LYNAIRE BRUST ASST. ED.

CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO POOBAH

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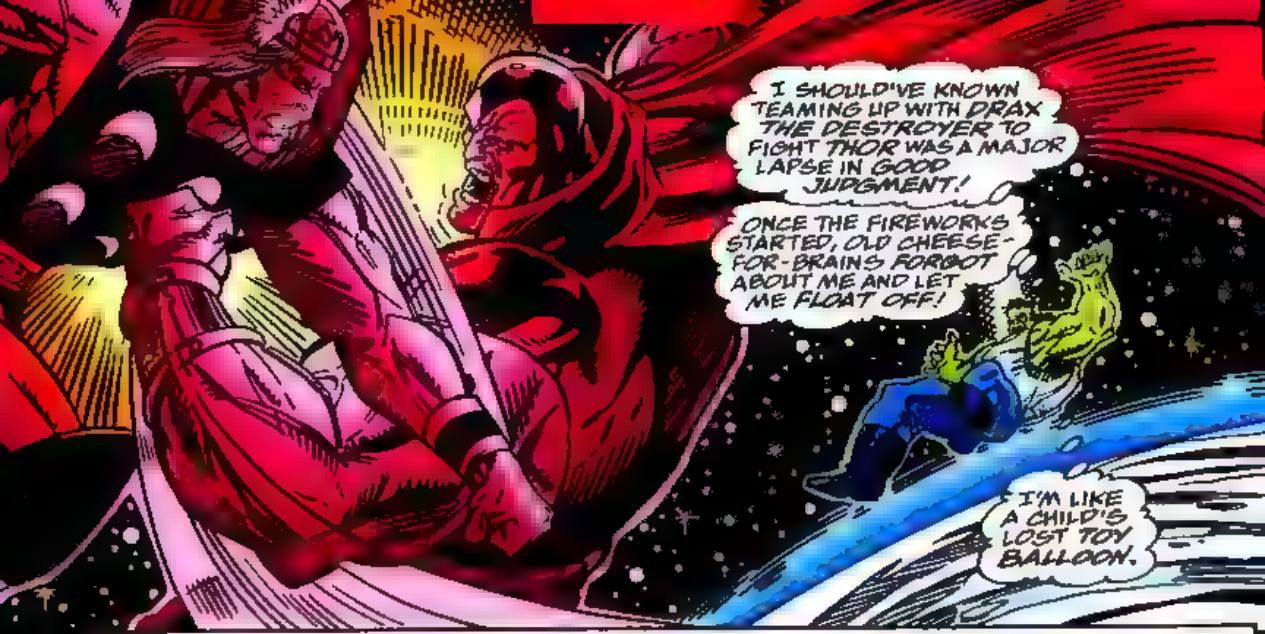
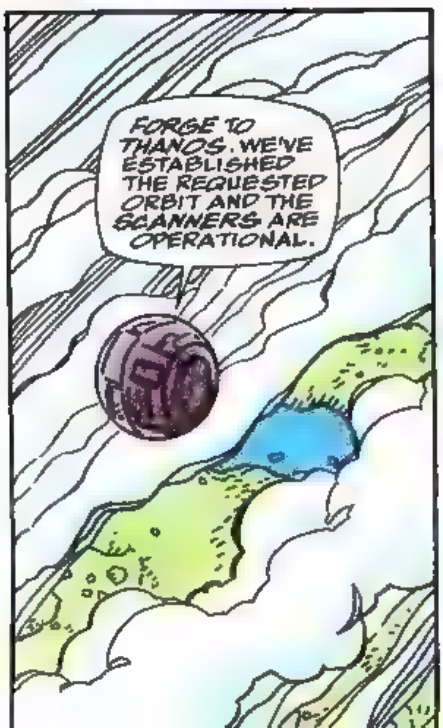
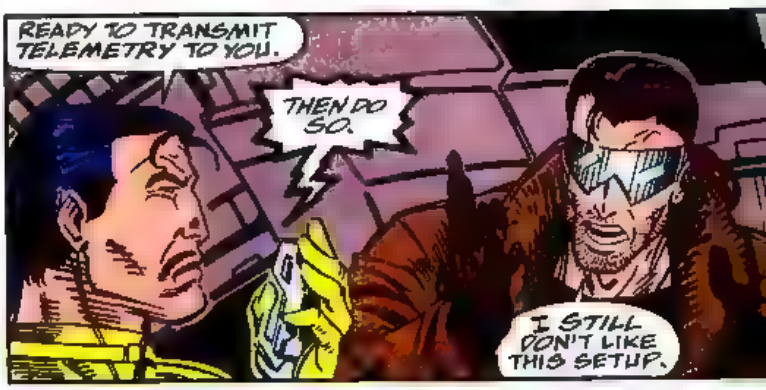
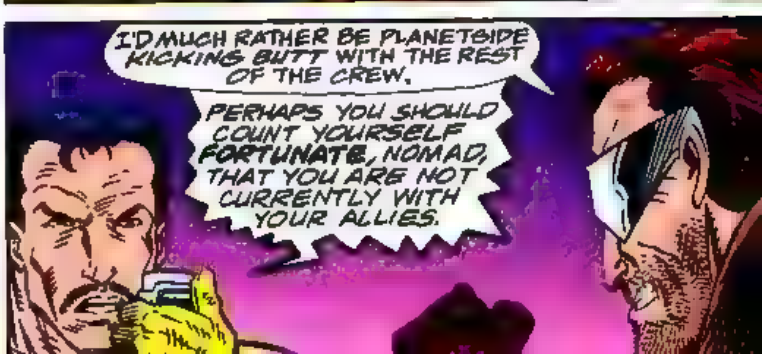
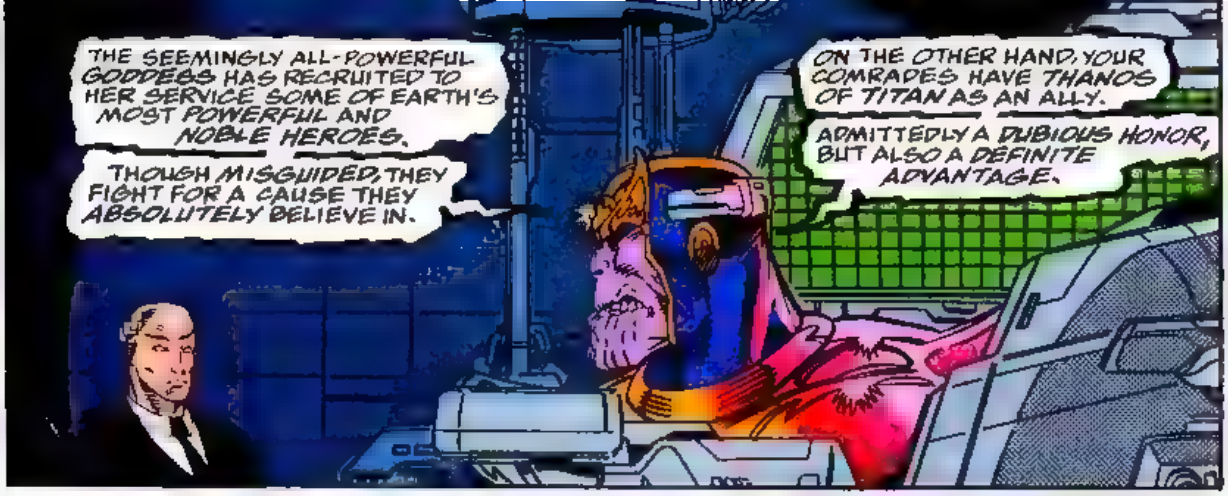

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN TEAMING UP WITH DRAX THE DESTROYER TO FIGHT THOR WAS A MAJOR LAPSE IN GOOD JUDGMENT!
ONCE THE FIREWORKS STARTED, OLD CHEESE-FOR-BRAINS FORGOT ABOUT ME AND LET ME FLOAT OFF!
I'M LIKE A CHILD'S LOST TOY BALLOON.

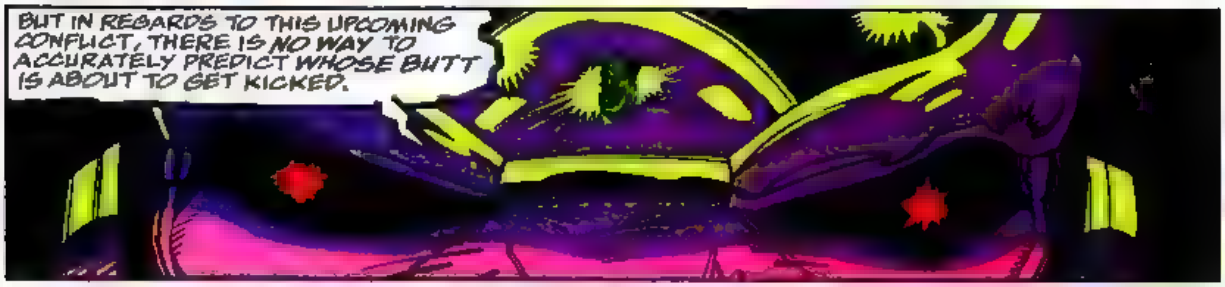
I SURE WISH I COULD ACTUALLY FLY LIKE DRAX.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M HEADED FOR ONE WORLD-CLASS FALL!
ONE CAN ONLY HOPE THE BIG PLUNGE COMES QUICKLY.
I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO RUN OUT OF AIR!

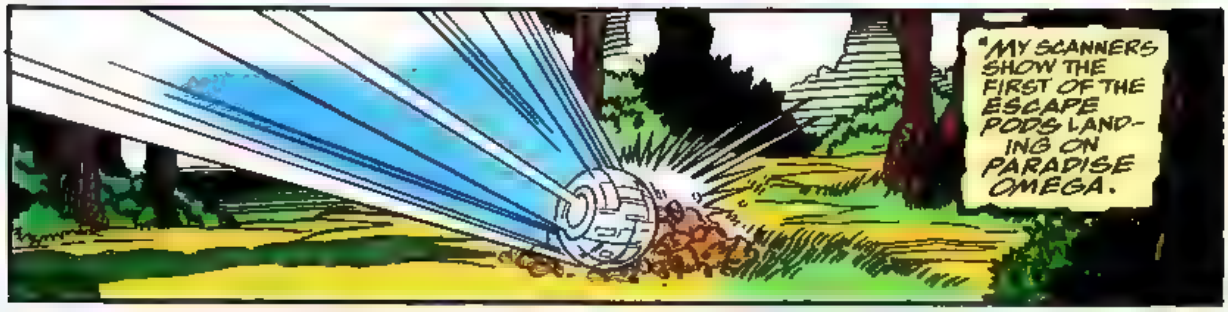

FORGE TO THANOS. WE'VE ESTABLISHED THE REQUESTED ORBIT AND THE SCANNERS ARE OPERATIONAL.

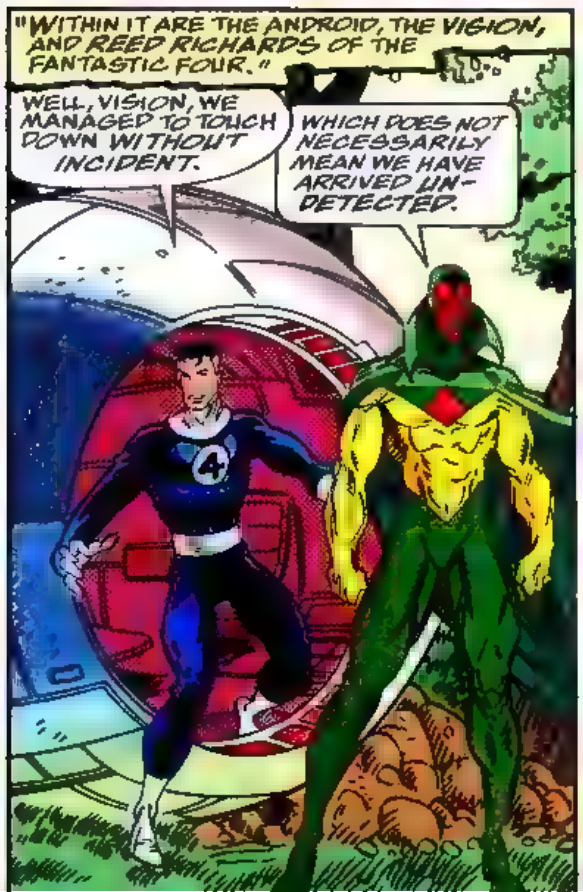

READY TO TRANSMIT TELEMETRY TO YOU.
THEN DO SO.
I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS SETUP.


I'D MUCH RATHER BE PLANETSIDE KICKING BUTT WITH THE REST OF THE CREW.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD COUNT YOURSELF FORTUNATE, NOMAD, THAT YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY WITH YOUR ALLIES.


THE SEEMINGLY ALL-POWERFUL GODDESS HAS RECRUITED TO HER SERVICE SOME OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL AND NOBLE HEROES.
THOUGH MISGUIDED, THEY FIGHT FOR A CAUSE THEY ABSOLUTELY BELIEVE IN.
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOUR COMRADES HAVE THANOS OF TITAN AS AN ALLY.
ADMITTEDLY A DUBIOUS HONOR, BUT ALSO A DEFINITE ADVANTAGE.

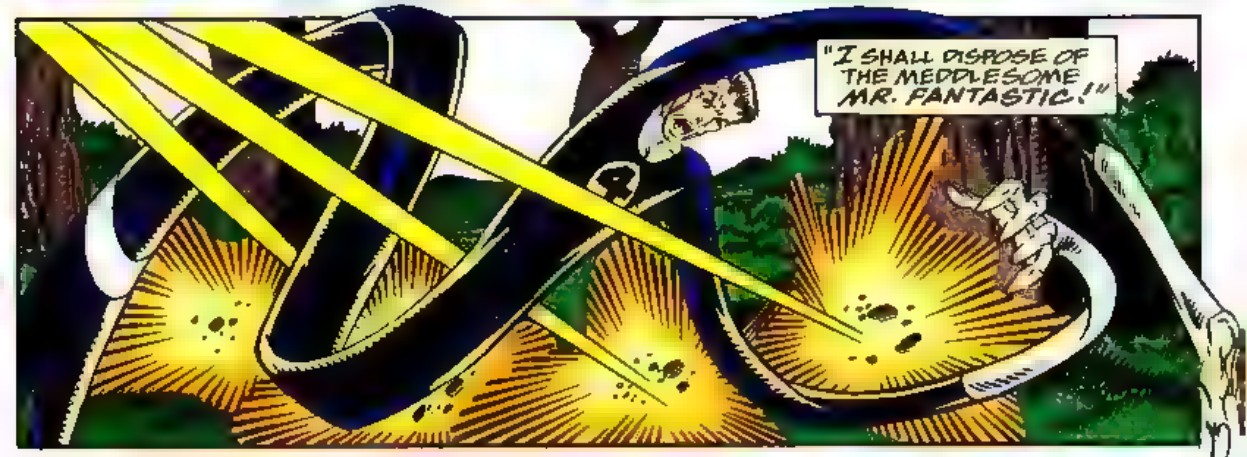

BUT IN REGARDS TO THIS UPCOMING CONFLICT, THERE IS NO WAY TO ACCURATELY PREDICT WHOSE BUTT IS ABOUT TO GET KICKED.

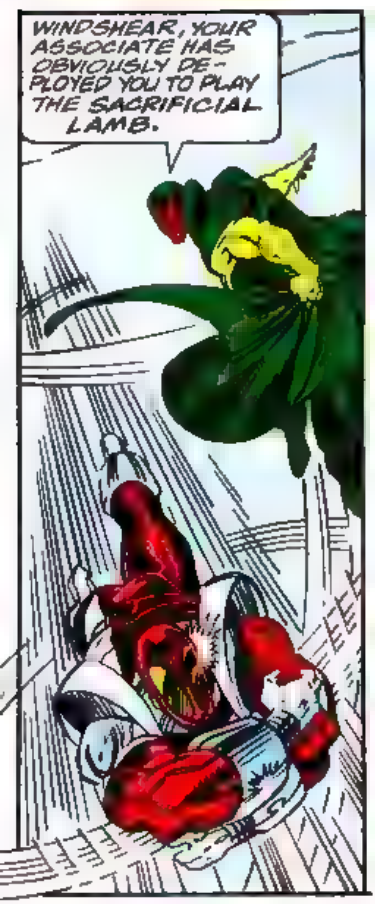

"MY SCANNERS SHOW THE FIRST OF THE ESCAPE PODS LANDING ON PARADISE OMEGA.

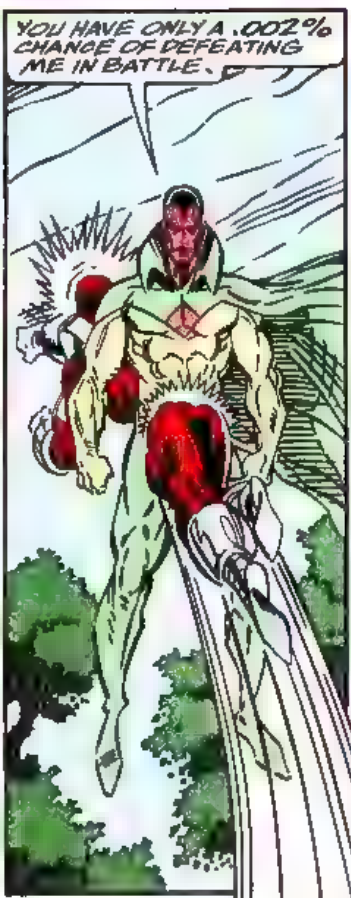

"WITHIN IT ARE THE ANDROID, THE VISION, AND REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR."
WELL, VISION, WE MANAGED TO TOUCH DOWN WITHOUT INCIDENT.
WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN WE HAVE ARRIVED UNDETECTED.

AVENGER, ON THAT ACCOUNT YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT!
WHO?

PREPARE TO DIE, INFIDELS!
WIND-SHEAR, TAKE ON THE ANDROID!
WINDSHEAR AND DR. STRANGE!!

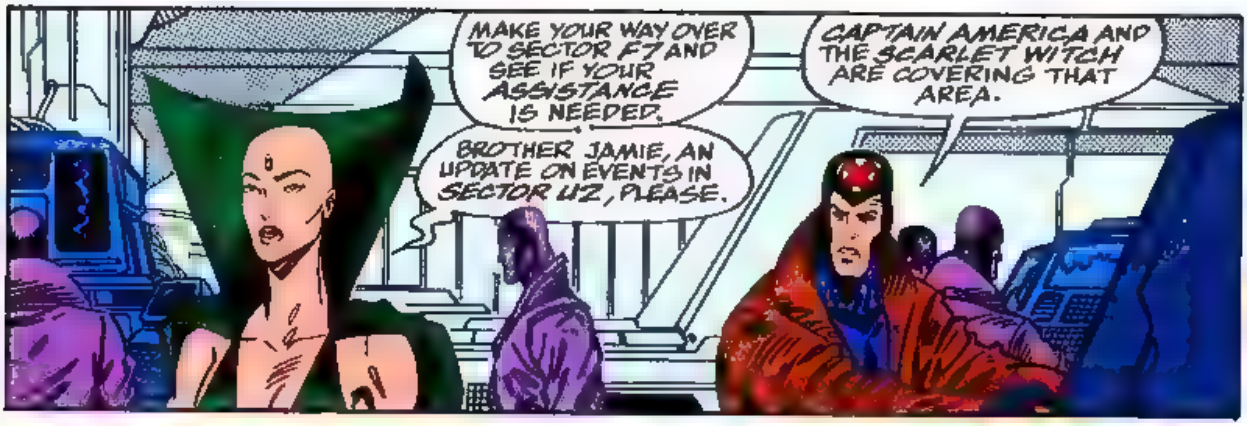

"I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE MEDDLESOME MR. FANTASTIC!"


WINDSHEAR, YOUR ASSOCIATE HAS OBVIOUSLY DEPLOYED YOU TO PLAY THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

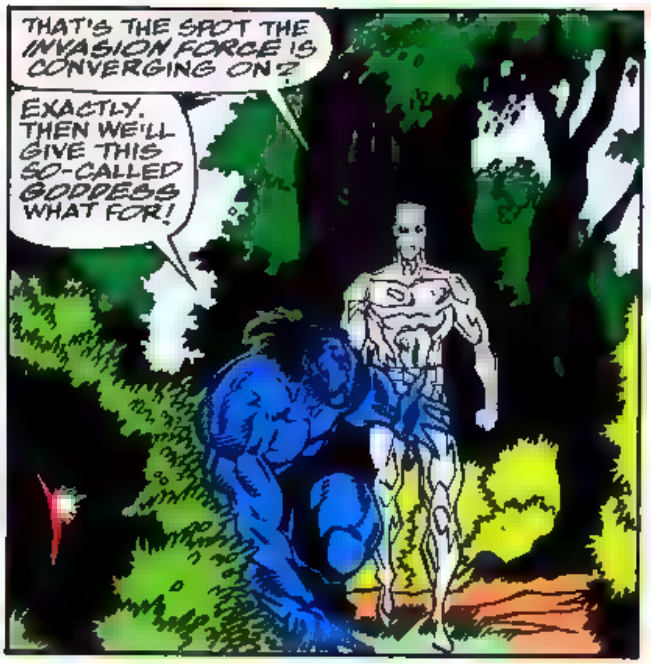

YOU HAVE ONLY A .002% CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME IN BATTLE.

AND THAT CALCULATION IS BASED ON MYSELF BEING TAKEN COMPLETELY OFF GUARD.

IN ANY GAME OF CHESS A FEW PAWNS MUST BE SACRIFICED IN ORDER TO TAKE OUT MORE POWERFUL PIECES, NON-BELIEVER
DON'T COUNT YOUR BISHOPS BEFORE THEY'RE ALL SAFELY BAGGED, MAGE.
SOME OF US CHESS PIECES STRETCH FURTHER THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT.
YOU WEREN'T QUITE AS FAR OUT OF MY RANGE AS YOU FIGURED.
BUT DISTANT ENOUGH SO THAT YOUR COWARDLY BLOW DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MUSCLE TO GAIN THE RESULTS YOU DESIRED.
MISTRESS MOONDRAGON, MY ASSIGNED OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN NEUTRALIZED BUT I LOST WINDSHEAR IN THE ENCOUNTER, AS EXPECTED.
THE GODDESS IS PROUD OF THE GOOD WORK YOU DO THIS DAY, MYSTIC.


MAKE YOUR WAY OVER TO SECTOR F7 AND SEE IF YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE SCARLET WITCH ARE COVERING THAT AREA.
BROTHER JAMIE, AN UPDATE ON EVENTS IN SECTOR U7, PLEASE.

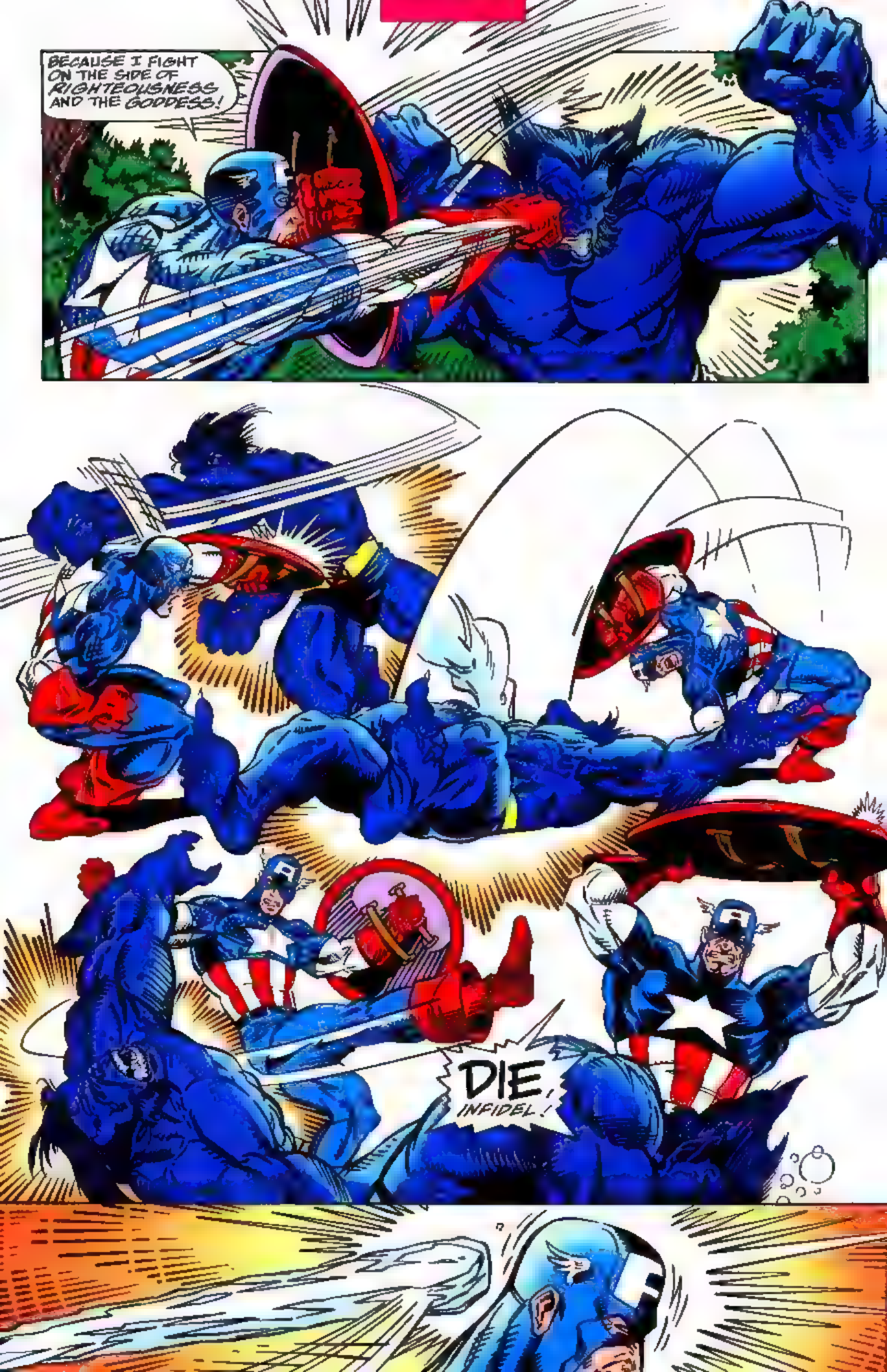
"THEY'RE ABOUT TO ENGAGE THE BEAST AND ICEMAN!"
WHICH WAY, HANK?
THAT MASSIVE CATHEDRAL IS SUPPOSEDLY DUE EAST OF HERE.

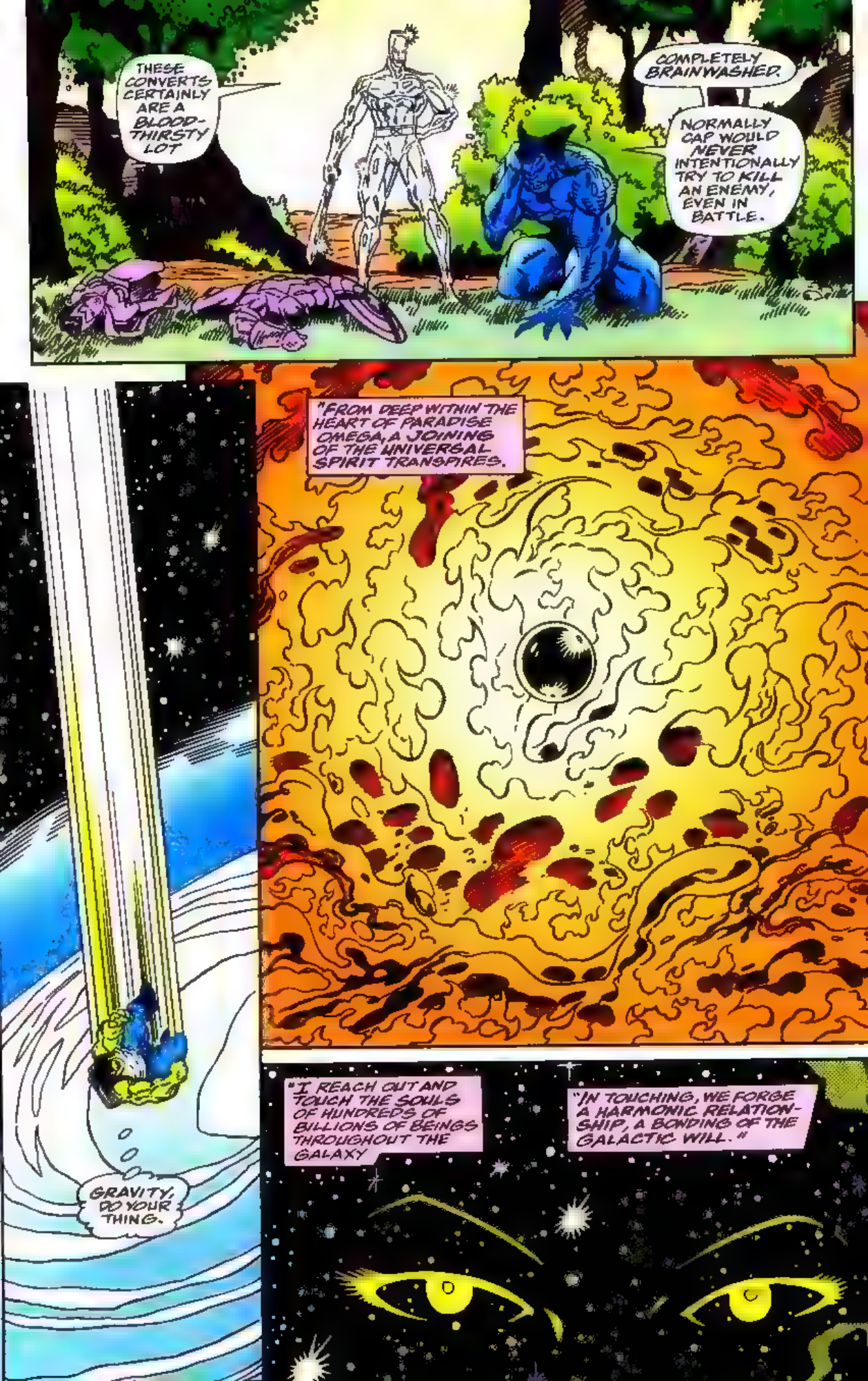

THAT'S THE SPOT THE INVASION FORCE IS CONVERGING ON?
EXACTLY. THEN WE'LL GIVE THIS SO-CALLED GODDESS WHAT FOR!

NOT EVEN IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS, YOU SACRILEGIOUS ANIMAL!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
AND ANOTHER

WHO WANTS TO MAKE CRUSHED ICE OUT OF YOURS TRULY
FORTUNATELY, MAYHEM ON MY PERSON IS MORE EASILY PLANNED THAN ACHIEVED!

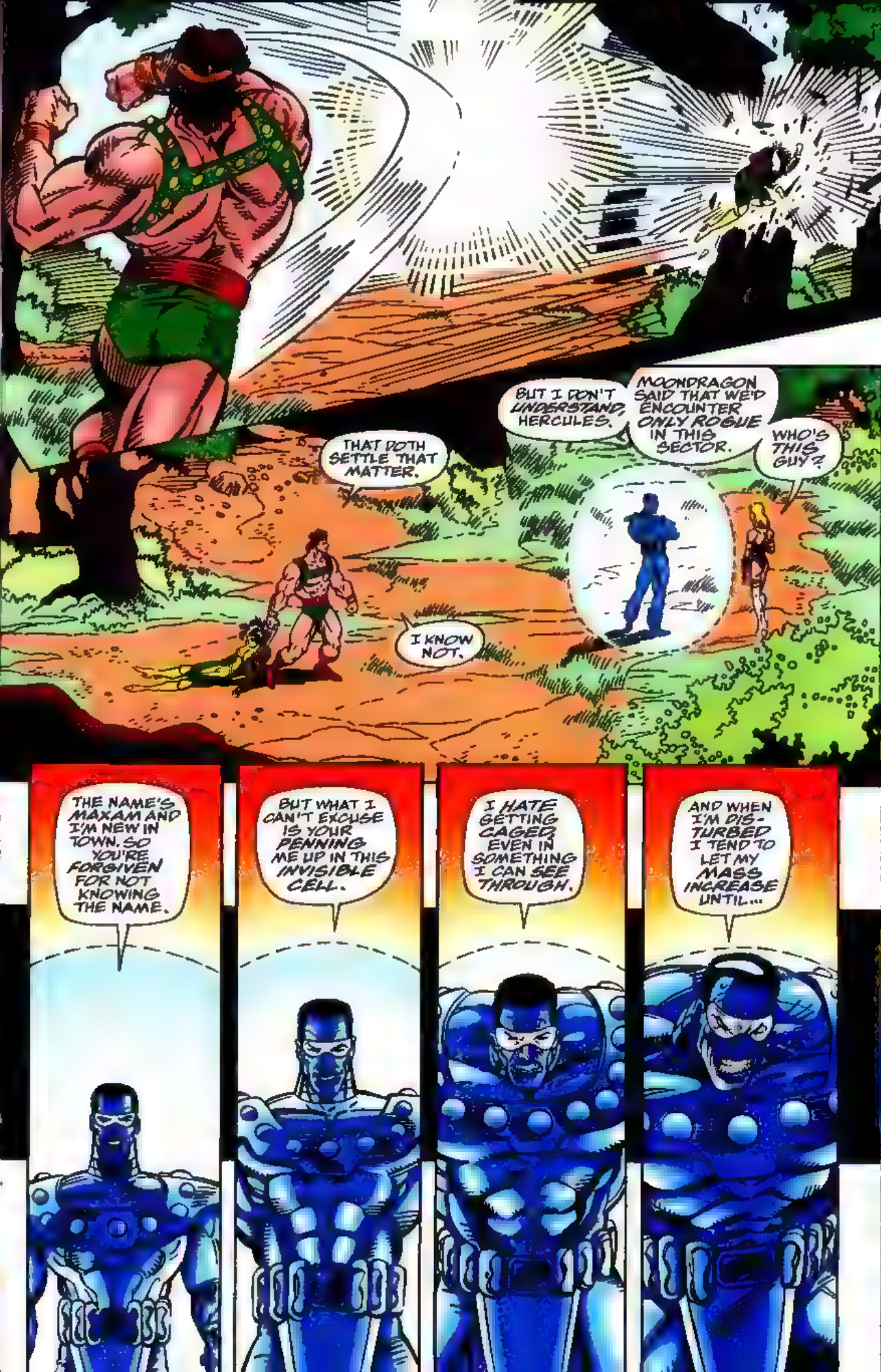
SO CHILL OUT, CAP!
THIS IS ONE MEEK MUTANT WHO'S NOT YET READY TO INHERIT HIS SIX FEET OF EARTH.
DON'T BET ON IT, BLASPHEMER!
WHAT?
SORRY, WANDA.
BUT ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, MISTER.
THIS IS MOST DEFINITELY WAR!
AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A CASUALTY OF THE CONFLICT.
MY, BUT AREN'T YOU THE CONFIDENT ONE?!


BECAUSE I FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE GODDESS!
DIE, INFIDEL!

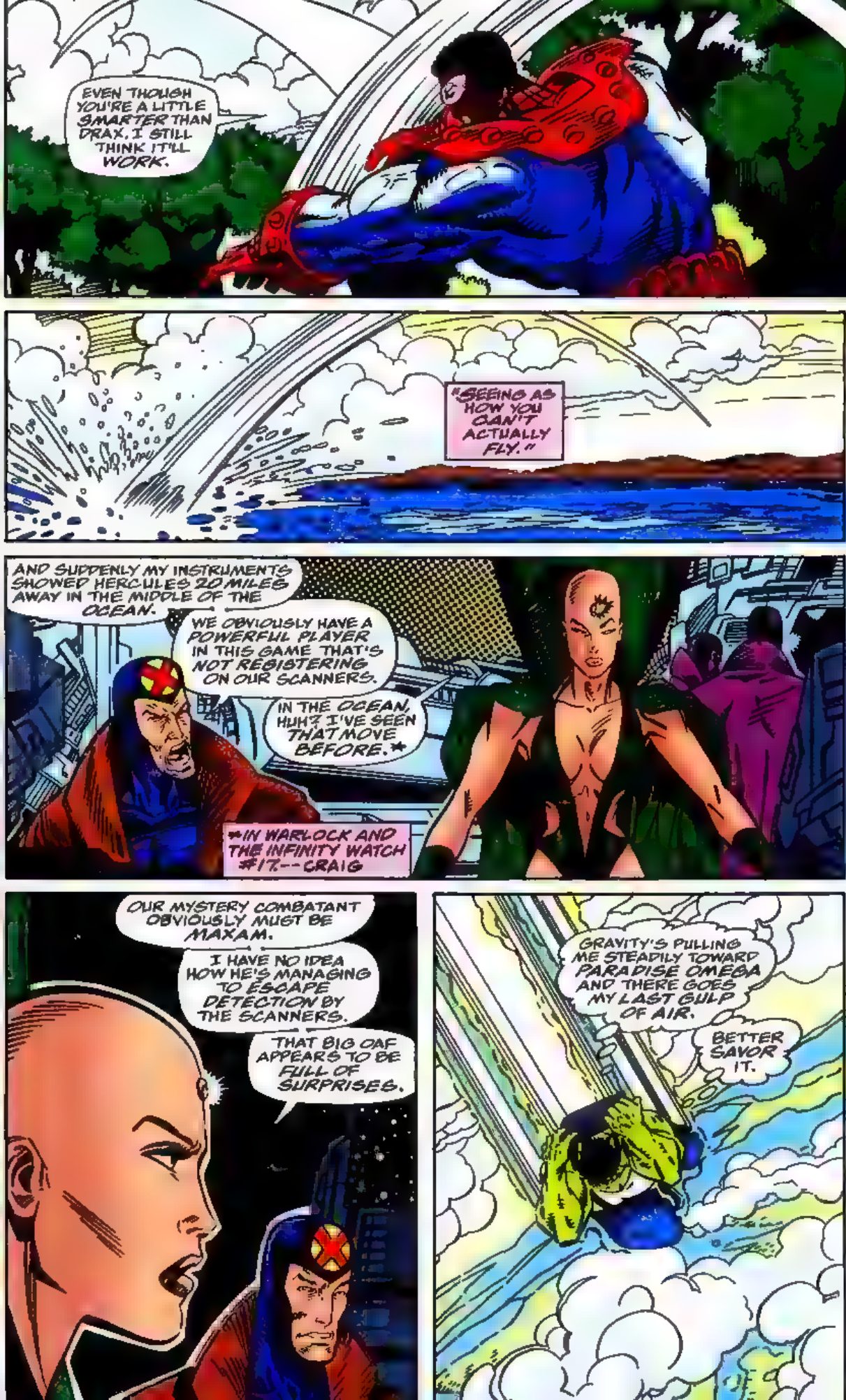

THESE CONVERTS CERTAINLY ARE A BLOOD-THIRSTY LOT
COMPLETELY BRAINWASHED.
NORMALLY CAP WOULD NEVER INTENTIONALLY TRY TO KILL AN ENEMY, EVEN IN BATTLE.
"FROM DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF PARADISE OMEGA, A JOINING OF THE UNIVERSAL SPIRIT TRANSPIRES.
GRAVITY, DO YOUR THING.
"I REACH OUT AND TOUCH THE SOULS OF HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF BEINGS THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY
"IN TOUCHING, WE FORGE A HARMONIC RELATIONSHIP, A BONDING OF THE GALACTIC WILL."

TOGETHER WE SHALL PURGE THIS UNIVERSE OF ALL EVIL.
AS ONE WE WILL RAISE THE DIVINE FROM THE ASHES!
LET THERE BE RAPTURE!
WE STAND WITH YOU, MY GODDESS!
MMMPHHH!

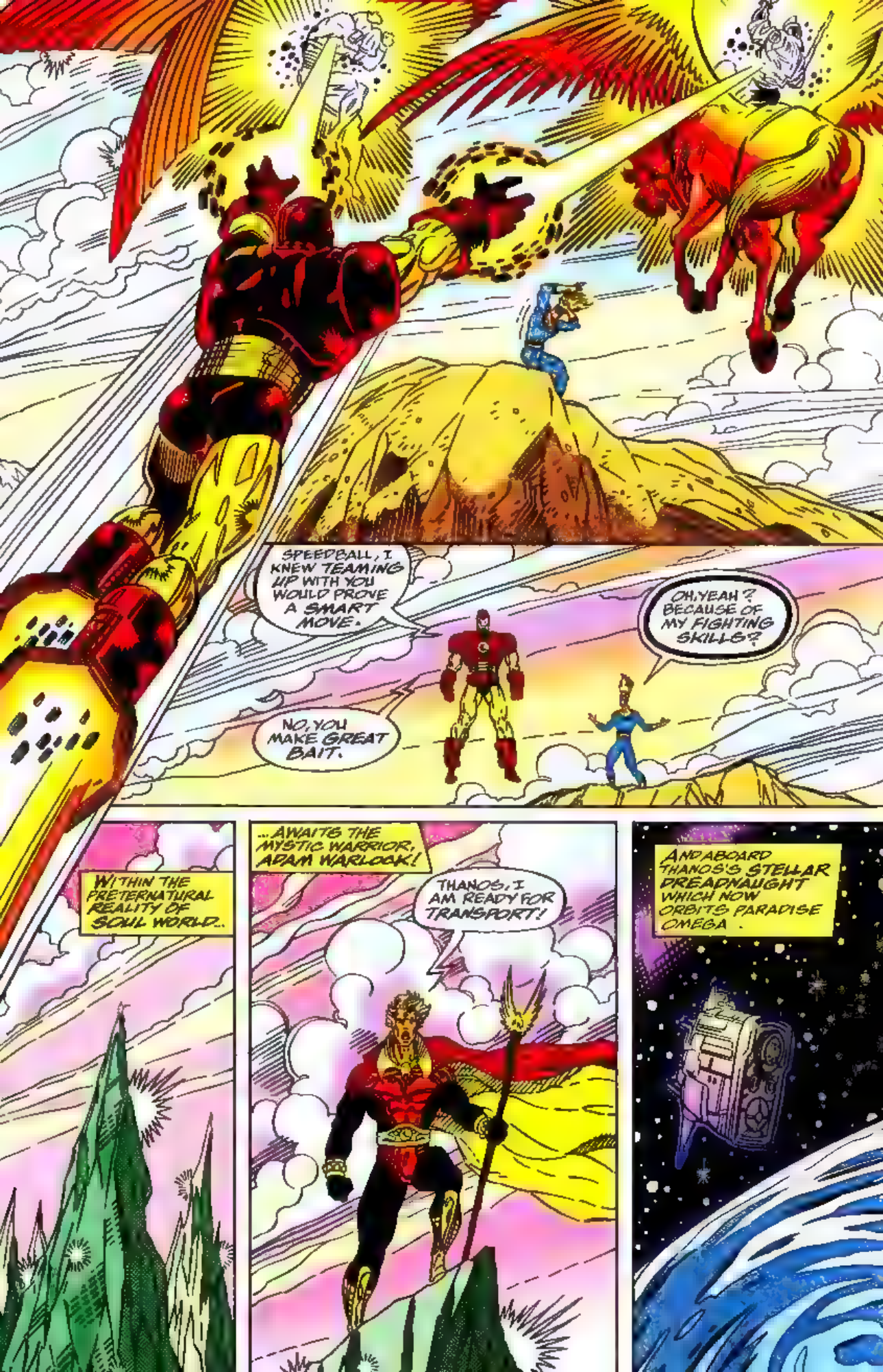
BACK ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE...
MAXAM, YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T MUCH OF A PILOT, ARE YOU?
I DID OFFER TO LET YOU DRIVE, ROGUE.
AND I GRACIOUSLY DECLINED, THINKING YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
FORTUNATELY, WE CAN BOTH BECOME NEARLY INVULNERABLE.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR REACHING MAXIMUM DENSITY MADE IT A BIT MORE INTIMATE IN THE ESCAPE POD THAN I CARE TO RECALL.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT I...
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I JUST BUMPED INTO SOMETHING.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING HERE!
YOU'RE SNARED IN ONE OF SUE RICHARDS' INVISIBLE FORCE FIELDS.
HANG TOUGH, I'LL GET YOU OUT, SUGAR!
YOU SHALT DO NOTHING SAVE PERISH, SINFUL WENCH!
HERCULES!

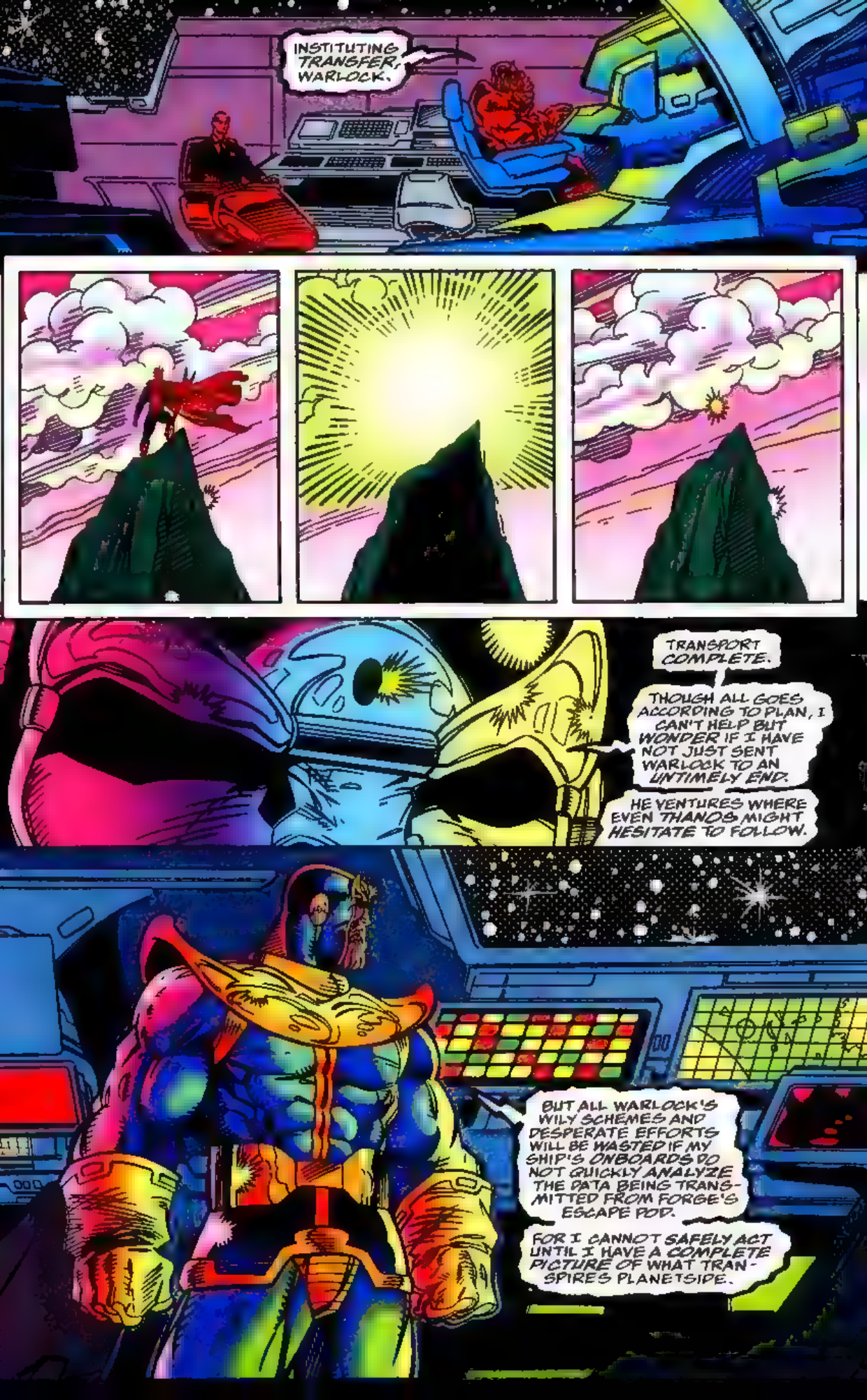

THAT DOTH SETTLE THAT MATTER.
I KNOW NOT.
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HERCULES.
MOONDRAGON SAID THAT WE'D ENCOUNTER ONLY ROGUE IN THIS SECTOR.
WHO'S THIS GUY?
THE NAME'S MAXAM AND I'M NEW IN TOWN. SO YOU'RE FORGIVEN FOR NOT KNOWING THE NAME.
BUT WHAT I CAN'T EXCUSE IS YOUR PENNING ME UP IN THIS INVISIBLE CELL.
I HATE GETTING CAGED, EVEN IN SOMETHING I CAN SEE THROUGH.
AND WHEN I'M DISTURBED I TEND TO LET MY MASS INCREASE UNTIL...

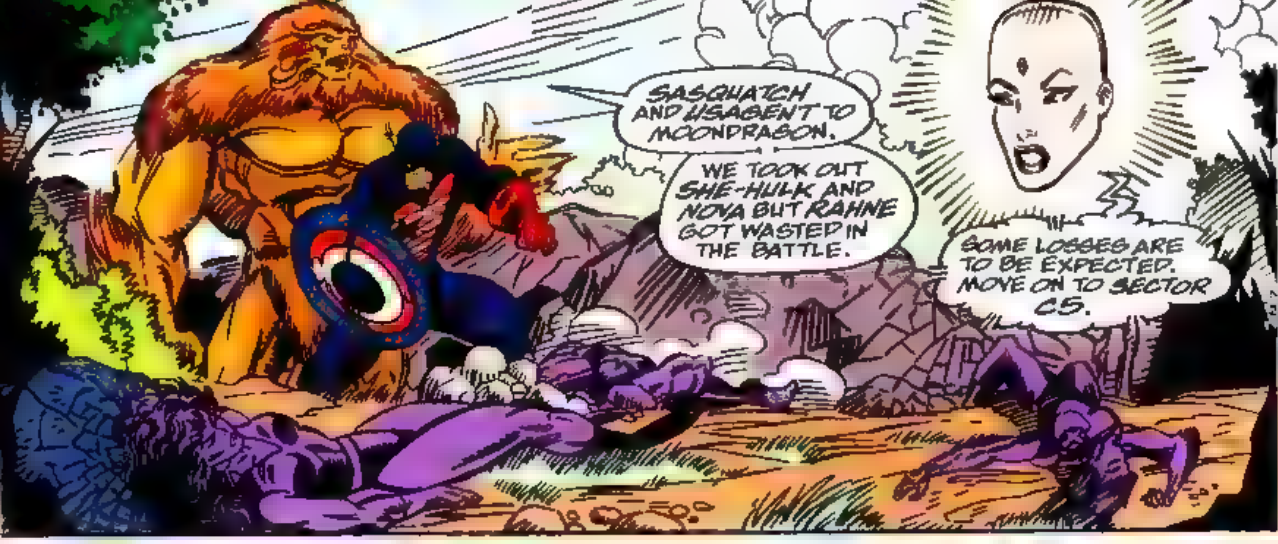
...SOMETHING BLOWS!
YOUR DEVIOUS PLOY MAY HAVE FELLED MY MORTAL ALLY, SINNER...
...BUT SUCH DECEIT WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD AGAINST THE SCION OF ZEUS!
THEN I'LL TRY A DIFFERENT KIND OF DECEIT.
ON THE TRIP HERE, HERC, I READ A COMPUTER FILE ON YOU.
I KNOW THAT YOU AND I ARE SOMEWHAT EVENLY MATCHED IN THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH DEPARTMENT.
TRADING BLOWS WITH YOU WOULD EAT TOO MUCH VALUABLE TIME!
SO WHAT I THINK I'LL TRY IS A LITTLE MANEUVER I USED AGAINST DRAX THE DESTROYER THE OTHER DAY.

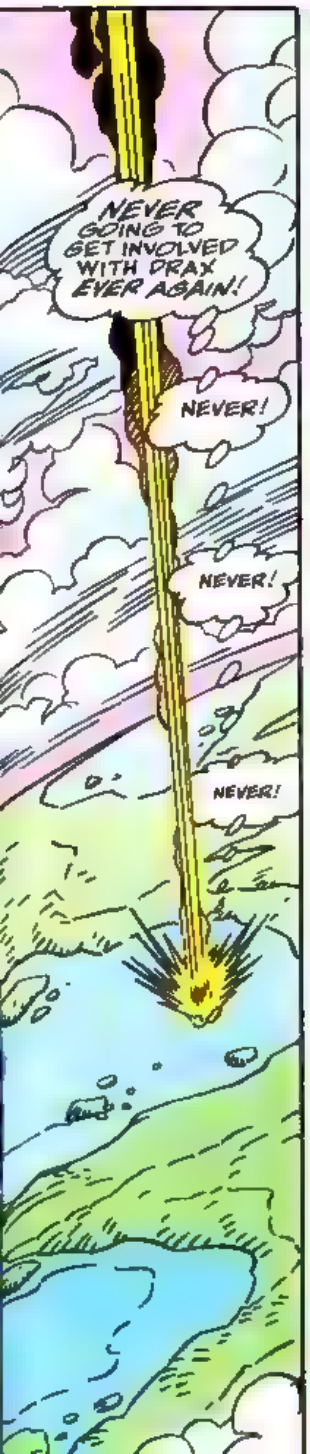

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A LITTLE SMARTER THAN DRAX, I STILL THINK IT'LL WORK.
"SEEING AS HOW YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY FLY."
AND SUDDENLY MY INSTRUMENTS SHOWED HERCULES 20 MILES AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.
WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE A POWERFUL PLAYER IN THIS GAME THAT'S NOT REGISTERING ON OUR SCANNERS.
IN THE OCEAN, HUH? I'VE SEEN THAT MOVE BEFORE.*
*IN WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #17--CRAIG
OUR MYSTERY COMBATANT OBVIOUSLY MUST BE MAXAM.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HE'S MANAGING TO ESCAPE DETECTION BY THE SCANNERS.
THAT BIG OAF APPEARS TO BE FULL OF SURPRISES.
GRAVITY'S PULLING ME STEADILY TOWARD PARADISE OMEGA AND THERE GOES MY LAST GULP OF AIR.
BETTER SAVOR IT.

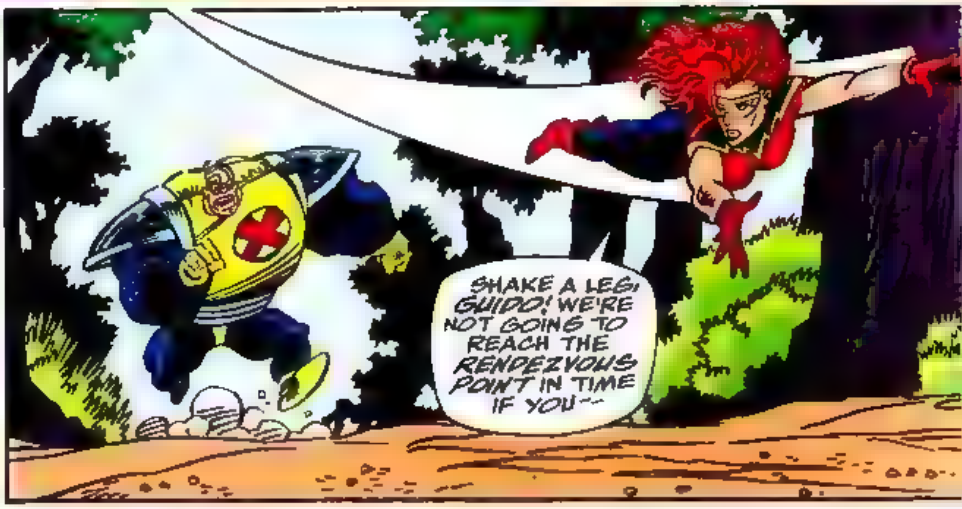
NO TELLING WHEN I'LL GET ANOTHER.
IF EVER.
THERE IT IS, STRAIGHT AHEAD!
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE BIG CHURCH WE'RE HEADED FOR.
WHAT SAY WE..
WHERE'D IRON MAN GO?
TALKING TO MYSELF.
NOT QUITE.
HUH?
THE BLACK KNIGHT AND ARCH-ANGEL!


SPEEDBALL, I KNEW TEAMING UP WITH YOU WOULD PROVE A SMART MOVE.
OH, YEAH? BECAUSE OF MY FIGHTING SKILLS?
NO, YOU MAKE GREAT BAIT.
WITHIN THE PRETERNATURAL REALITY OF SOUL WORLD..
...AWAITS THE MYSTIC WARRIOR, ADAM WARLOCK!
THANOS, I AM READY FOR TRANSPORT!
AND ABOARD THANOS'S STELLAR DREADNAUGHT WHICH NOW ORBITS PARADISE OMEGA.


INSTITUTING TRANSFER, WARLOCK.
TRANSPORT COMPLETE.
THOUGH ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF I HAVE NOT JUST SENT WARLOCK TO AN UNTIMELY END.
HE VENTURES WHERE EVEN THANOS MIGHT HESITATE TO FOLLOW.
BUT ALL WARLOCK'S WILY SCHEMES AND DESPERATE EFFORTS WILL BE WASTED IF MY SHIP'S ONBOARDS DO NOT QUICKLY ANALYZE THE DATA BEING TRANSMITTED FROM FORGE'S ESCAPE POD.
FOR I CANNOT SAFELY ACT UNTIL I HAVE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF WHAT TRANSPIRES PLANETSIDE.

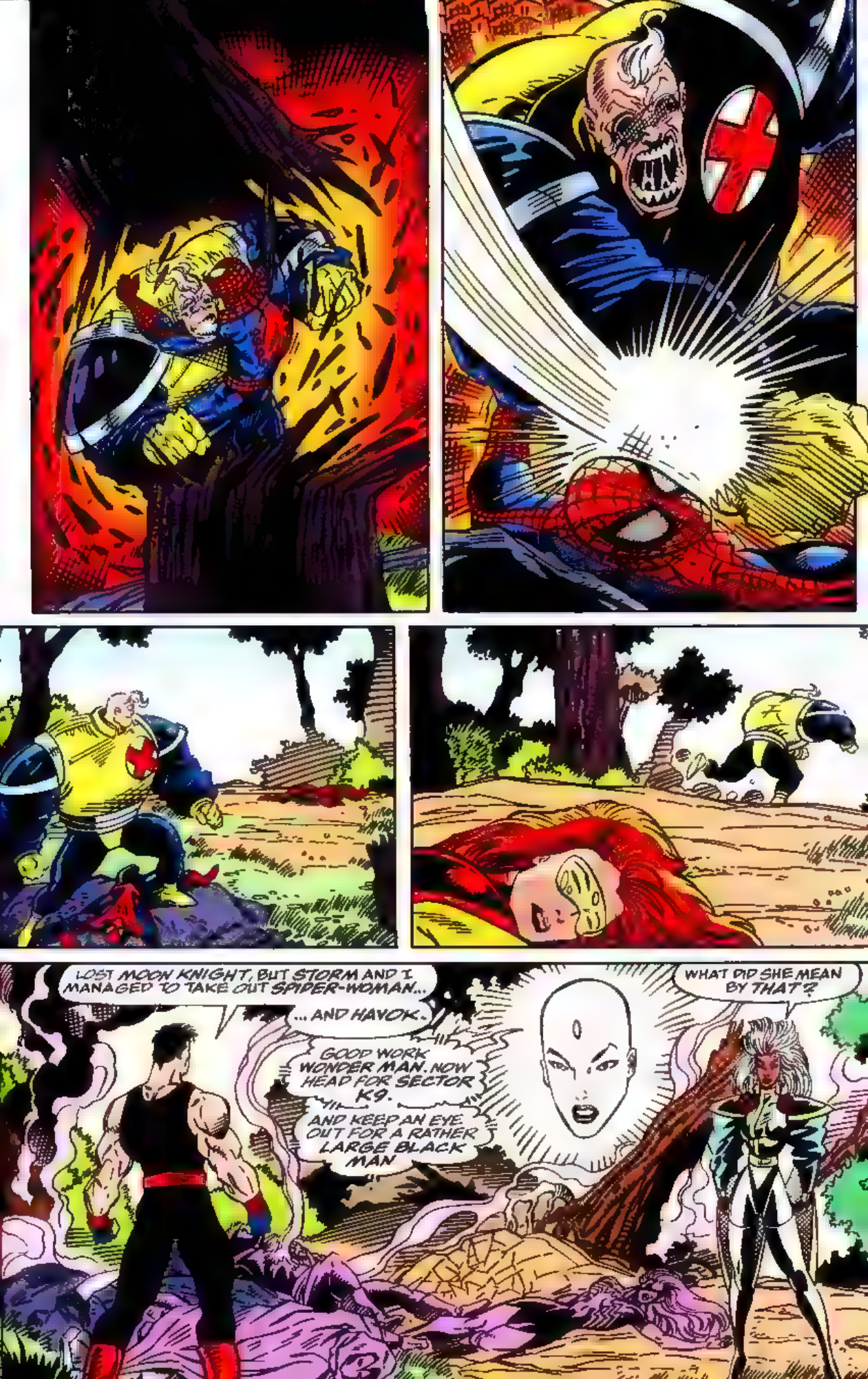

SASQUATCH AND USAGENT TO MOONDRAGON.
WE TOOK OUT SHE-HULK AND NOVA BUT RAHNE GOT WASTED IN THE BATTLE.
SOME LOSSES ARE TO BE EXPECTED. MOVE ON TO SECTOR C5.

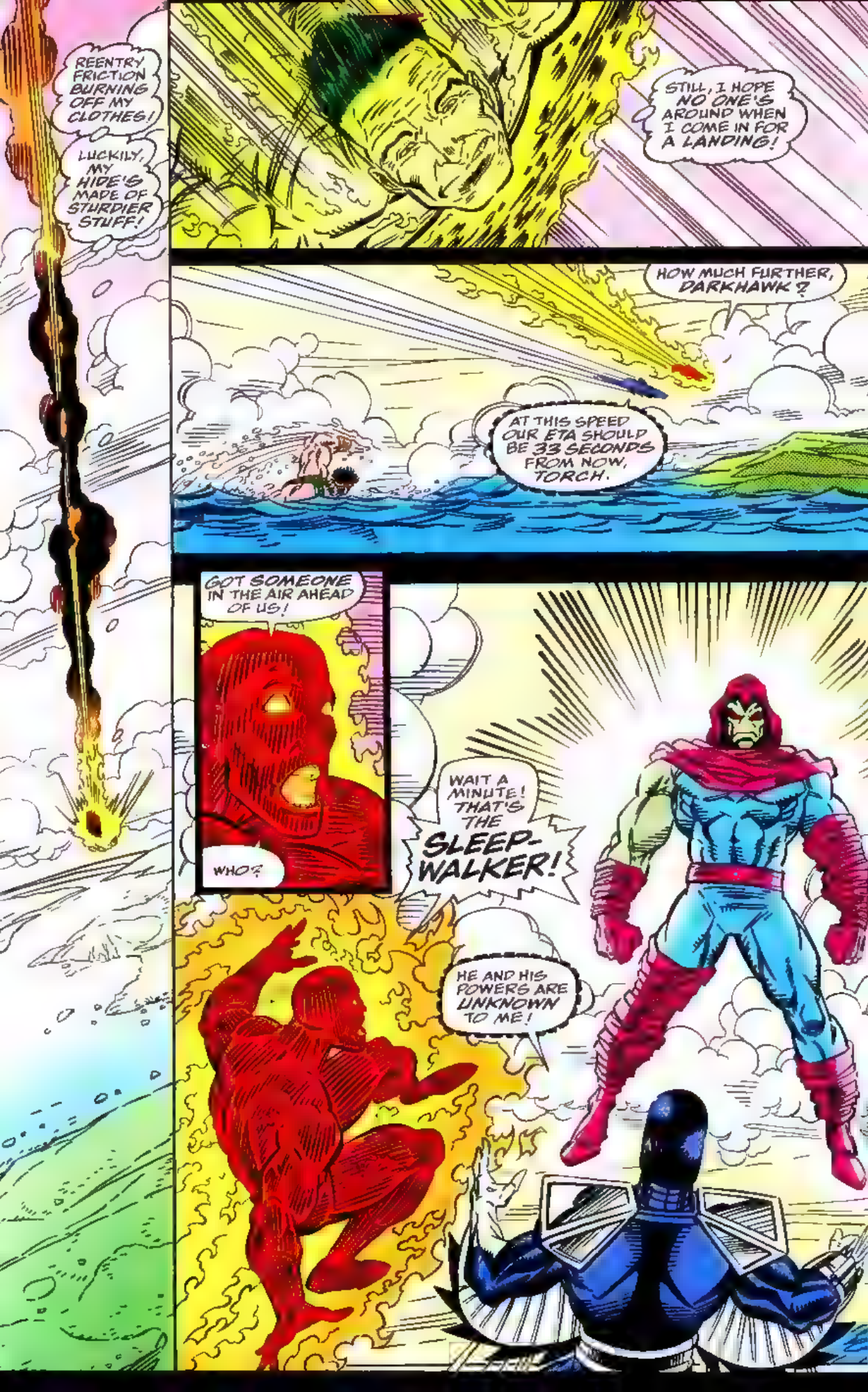

NEVER GOING TO GET INVOLVED WITH PRAX EVER AGAIN!
NEVER!
NEVER!
NEVER!

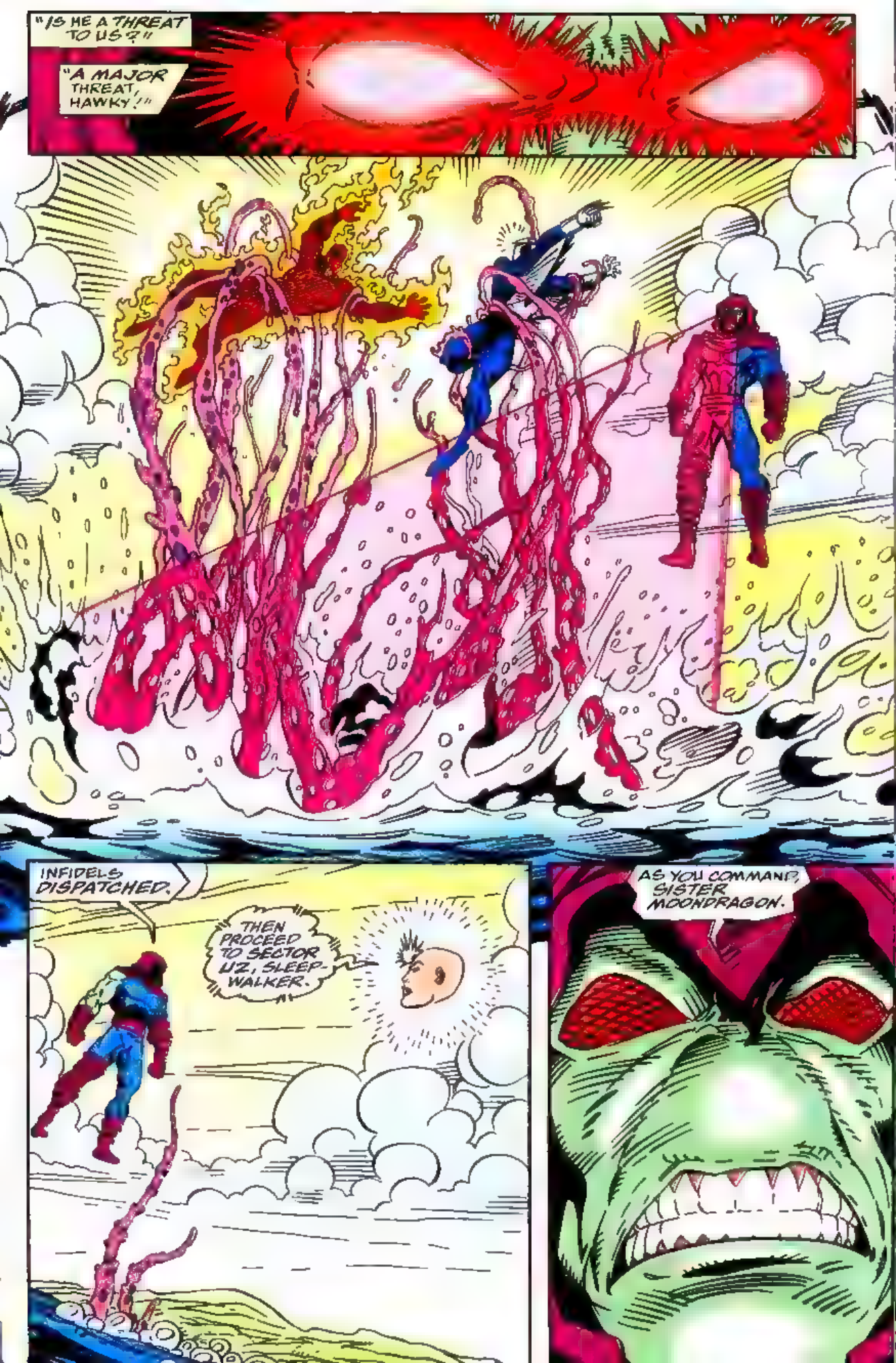

SHAKE A LEG, GUIDO! WE'RE NOT GOING TO REACH THE RENDEZVOUS POINT IN TIME IF YOU--

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REACH YOUR RENDEZVOUS AT ALL, FIRESTAR!
SPIDER-MAN, AND PUCK FROM ALPHA FLIGHT!

RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, HIGH POCKETS!
THE MAN WINS HIMSELF A FACE FULL OF WEB FLUID!
THIS PRIZE COMES WITH A COMPLEMENTARY BEATING INTO UNCONSCIOUS-NESS!
SAVE SOME FOR ME, SPIDEY!
CAN'T SEE SQUAT!
WHAT?!


LOST MOON KNIGHT, BUT STORM AND I MANAGED TO TAKE OUT SPIDER-WOMAN...
... AND HAVOK.
GOOD WORK WONDER MAN. NOW HEAD FOR SECTOR K9.
AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR A RATHER LARGE BLACK MAN
WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?


REENTRY FRICTION BURNING OFF MY CLOTHES!
LUCKILY, MY HIDE'S MADE OF STURDIER STUFF!
STILL, I HOPE NO ONE'S AROUND WHEN I COME IN FOR A LANDING!
HOW MUCH FURTHER, DARKHAWK?
AT THIS SPEED OUR ETA SHOULD BE 33 SECONDS FROM NOW, TORCH.
GOT SOMEONE IN THE AIR AHEAD OF US!
WHO?
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S THE SLEEP-WALKER!
HE AND HIS POWERS ARE UNKNOWN TO ME!

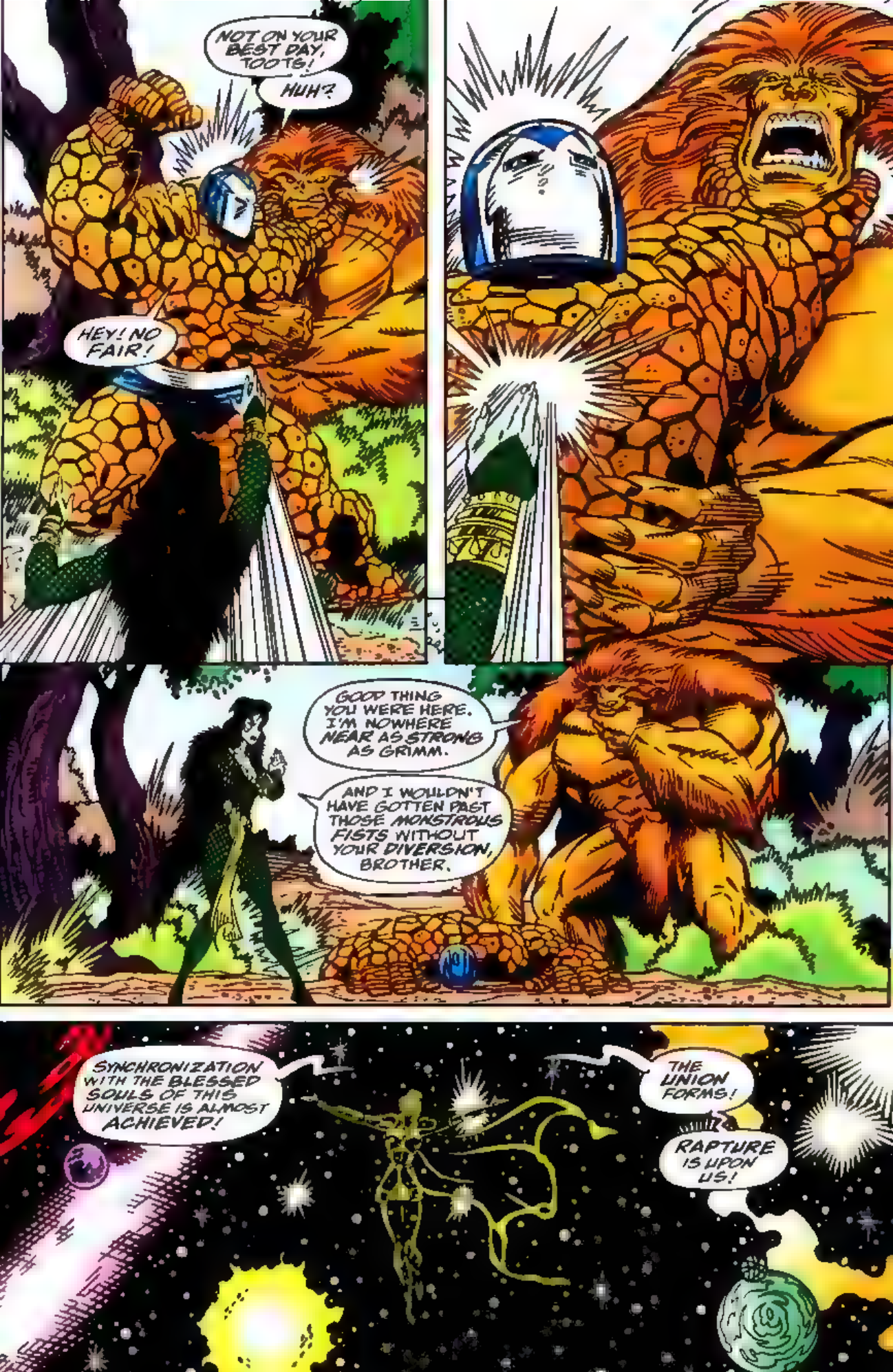

"IS HE A THREAT TO US?"
"A MAJOR THREAT, HAWKY!"
INFIDELS DISPATCHED.
THEN PROCEED TO SECTOR UZ, SLEEP-WALKER.
AS YOU COMMAND, SISTER MOONDRAGON.

THE COMPUTER HAS AT LAST PINPOINTED THE GODDESS'S HIDEAWAY AND THE LOCATION OF MOST OF THE ON-GROUND COMBATANTS.
BUT NOT ALL.
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHERE GAMORA IS PRESENTLY SITUATED.
DO I DARE WAIT TO ASCERTAIN HER LOCALE?
THERE'S THE CATHEDRAL.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE, RAGE.
CYCLOPS, I FIGURED THE OTHERS WOULD-- HUH?
IT'S THE WOMAN CALLED GAMORA!
HIT THE RIGHT NERVE CENTER AND EVEN THE BIGGEST BRUTE DROPS LIKE A FALLEN OAK.
TOO BAD FOR YOU THAT LITTLE TRICK'S NOT ABOUT TO WORK ON ME!
DIDN'T FIGURE IT HAD TO, BRIGHT EYES.

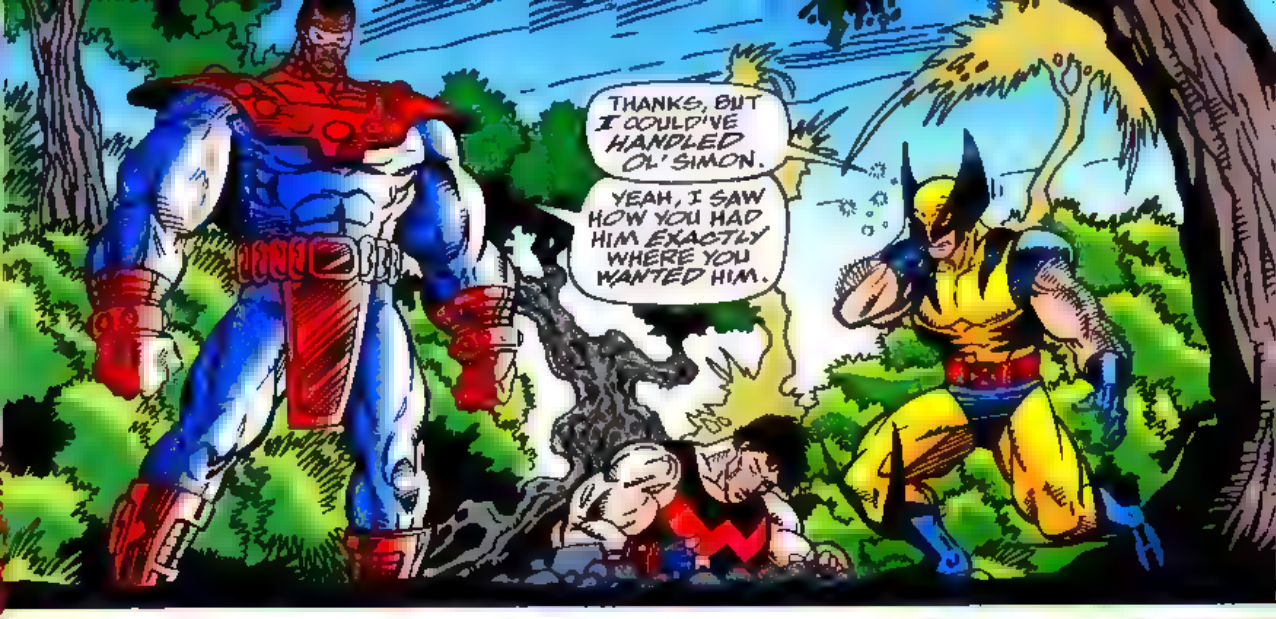
"YOU'VE BEEN CLAIMED BY ANOTHER."
THAT WAS SHORT AND SWEET, QUICK-SILVER.
AND A PLEASURE.
NEVER COULD STAND CYCLOPS' POMPOUS ATTITUDE.
LORNA DANE AND NORTHSTAR HAVE BEEN FIRMLY DEALT WITH.
CONGRATULATIONS, SHAMAN. YOU AND AURORA HEAD FOR SECTOR 112 AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO AGAINST IRON MAN AND GUIDO.
SENSORS SHOW THANOS IS CHARGING UP HIS BATTERIES TOPSIDE.
THEN WHAT SAY YOU AND I GET INTO THE ACTION DOWN BELOW ?

THEY'LL HIT US IN THOSE TREES JUST AHEAD, GUARDIAN.
COMIN' IN AT YOU AT ABOUT TEN O'CLOCK.
IT NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE ME WHAT THAT SENSE OF SMELL OF YOURS CLUES YOU INTO, WOLVERINE.
NEED ANY HELP WITH LIVING LIGHTNING?
YOU KIDDING?

FIGURED HE WAS STILL GREEN ENOUGH NOT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT HE WAS GOING TO CRASH INTO IF HE FAILED TO CONNECT WITH ME.
LISTEN! THERE'S ANOTHER BATTLE TAKING PLACE OVER THIS WAY!
YOU DON'T REALLY FIGURE THIS LITTLE BUBBLE IS GOING TO HOLD ME FOR LONG.
LONG ENOUGH FOR THE GODDESS TO COMPLETE THE RAPTURE.
I TELL YA, NIGHT THRASHER, THE CATHEDRAL IS OVER THIS WAY.
YOUR COMPASS MUST HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THE LANDING, THING.
MY COMPASS SAYS THE CATHEDRAL IS DEFINITELY OVER IN THIS DIRECTION.
NOTHIN' WRONG WITH THIS COMPASS.
KA-THUD
KID?
HE'S NAPPING.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JOIN HIM.


NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, TOOTS!
HUH?
HEY! NO FAIR!
GOOD THING YOU WERE HERE. I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS STRONG AS GRIMM.
AND I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN PAST THOSE MONSTROUS FISTS WITHOUT YOUR DIVERSION, BROTHER.
SYNCHRONIZATION WITH THE BLESSED SOULS OF THIS UNIVERSE IS ALMOST ACHIEVED!
THE UNION FORMS!
RAPTURE IS UPON US!

AT LAST!
THE COMPUTER HAS LOCATED GAMORA!
TRACKING SYSTEMS ARE LOCKED ON PRIMARY TARGET!
"PREPARING TO FIRE!"


THANKS, BUT I COULD'VE HANDLED OL' SIMON.
YEAH, I SAW HOW YOU HAD HIM EXACTLY WHERE YOU WANTED HIM.

MY CHILDREN, WE ARE READY FOR THE RAPTURE!
SURRENDER YOUR WILL TO ME!

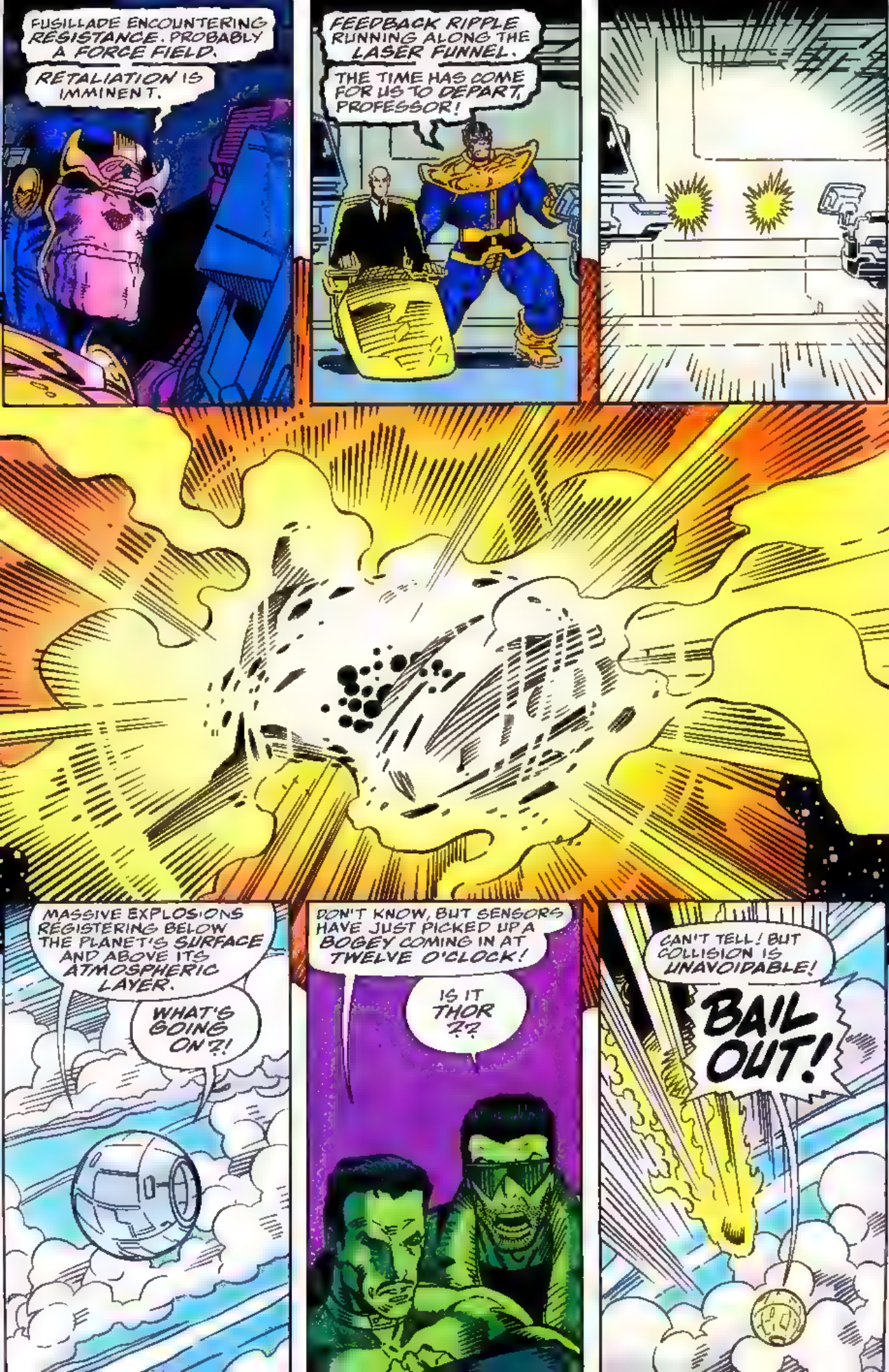
TOGETHER WE SHALL ERADICATE ALL EVIL FROM THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.'
OUR JOINED SPIRITS WILL DIRECT THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE!

BOBBY!

ENOUGH! YOU HAVE BEATEN HIM!
FUZZ FACE IS STILL BREATHING!
I SAID ENOUGH!
THEY DEAD?
NOT YET!
BUT SOON!

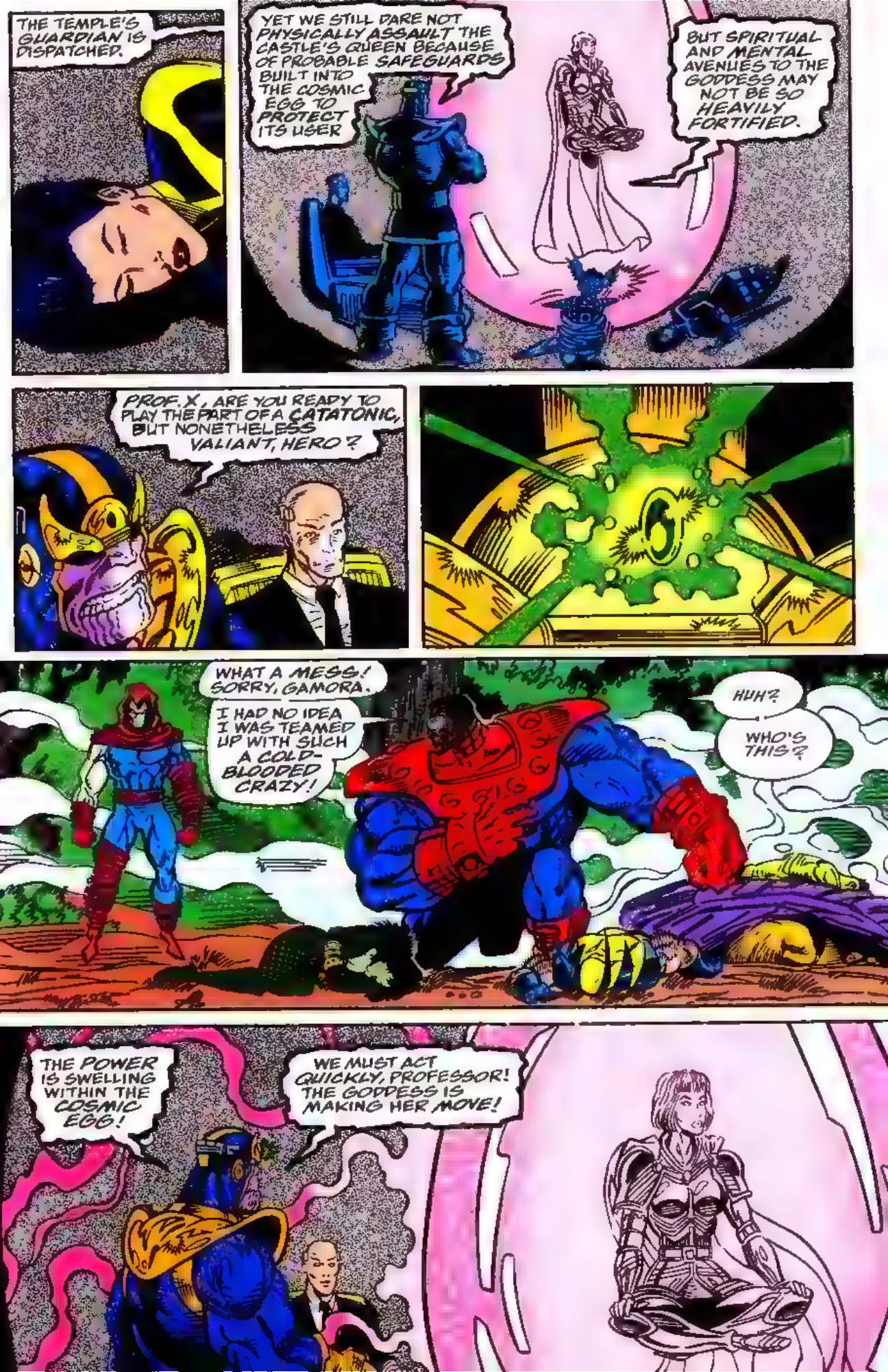
TOGETHER WE SHALL CIRCUMVENT THE COSMIC EGG'S INHIBITIONS!
THE UNTHINKABLE IS UPON US! LET RIGHTEOUSNESS TRIUMPH!!

GODDESS!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

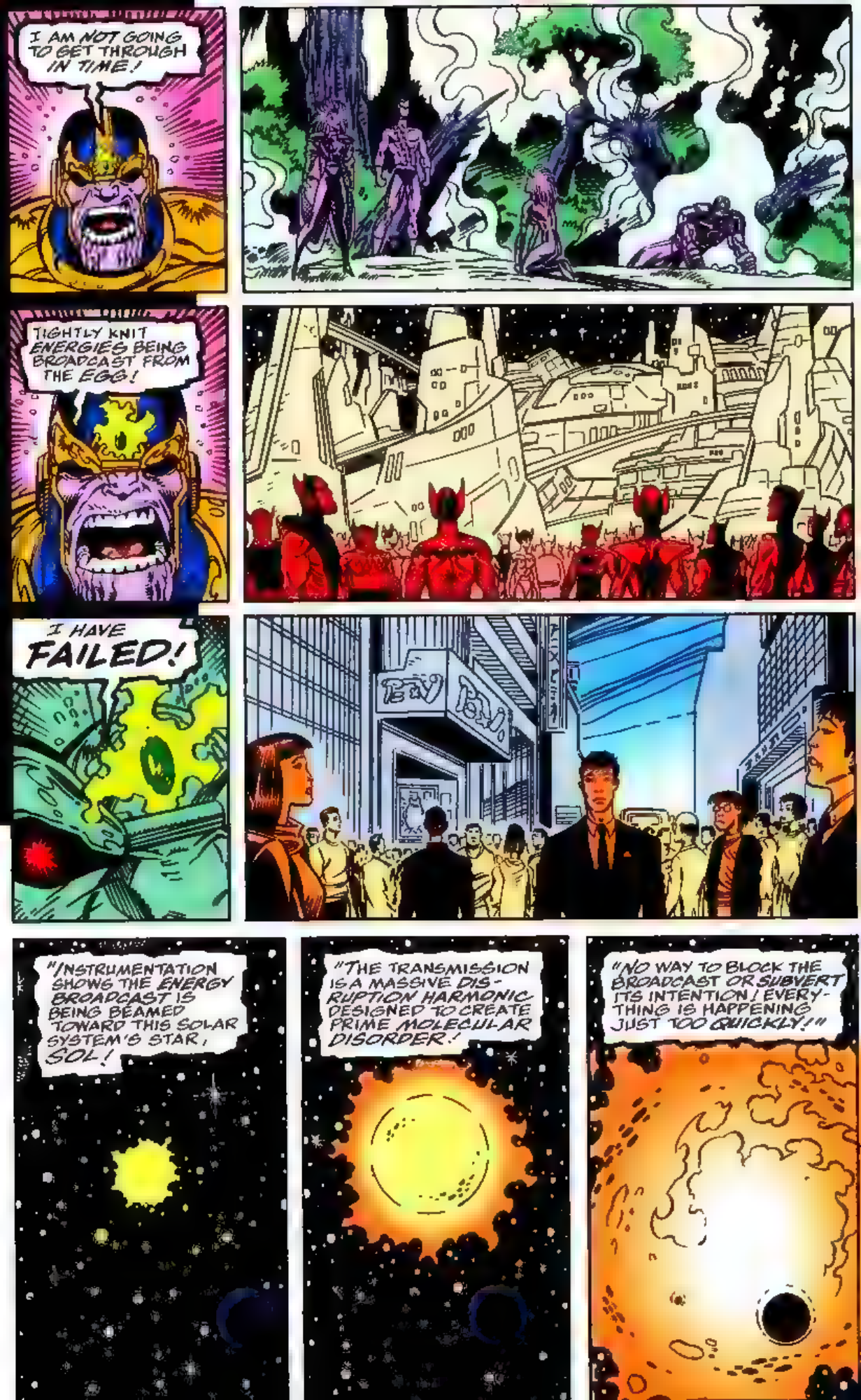

FUSILLADE ENCOUNTERING RESISTANCE. PROBABLY A FORCE FIELD.
RETALIATION IS IMMINENT.
FEEDBACK RIPPLE RUNNING ALONG THE LASER FUNNEL.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO DEPART, PROFESSOR!
MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS REGISTERING BELOW THE PLANET'S SURFACE AND ABOVE ITS ATMOSPHERIC LAYER.
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
DON'T KNOW, BUT SENSORS HAVE JUST PICKED UP A BOGEY COMING IN AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!
IS IT THOR??
CAN'T TELL! BUT COLLISION IS UNAVOIDABLE!
BAIL OUT!

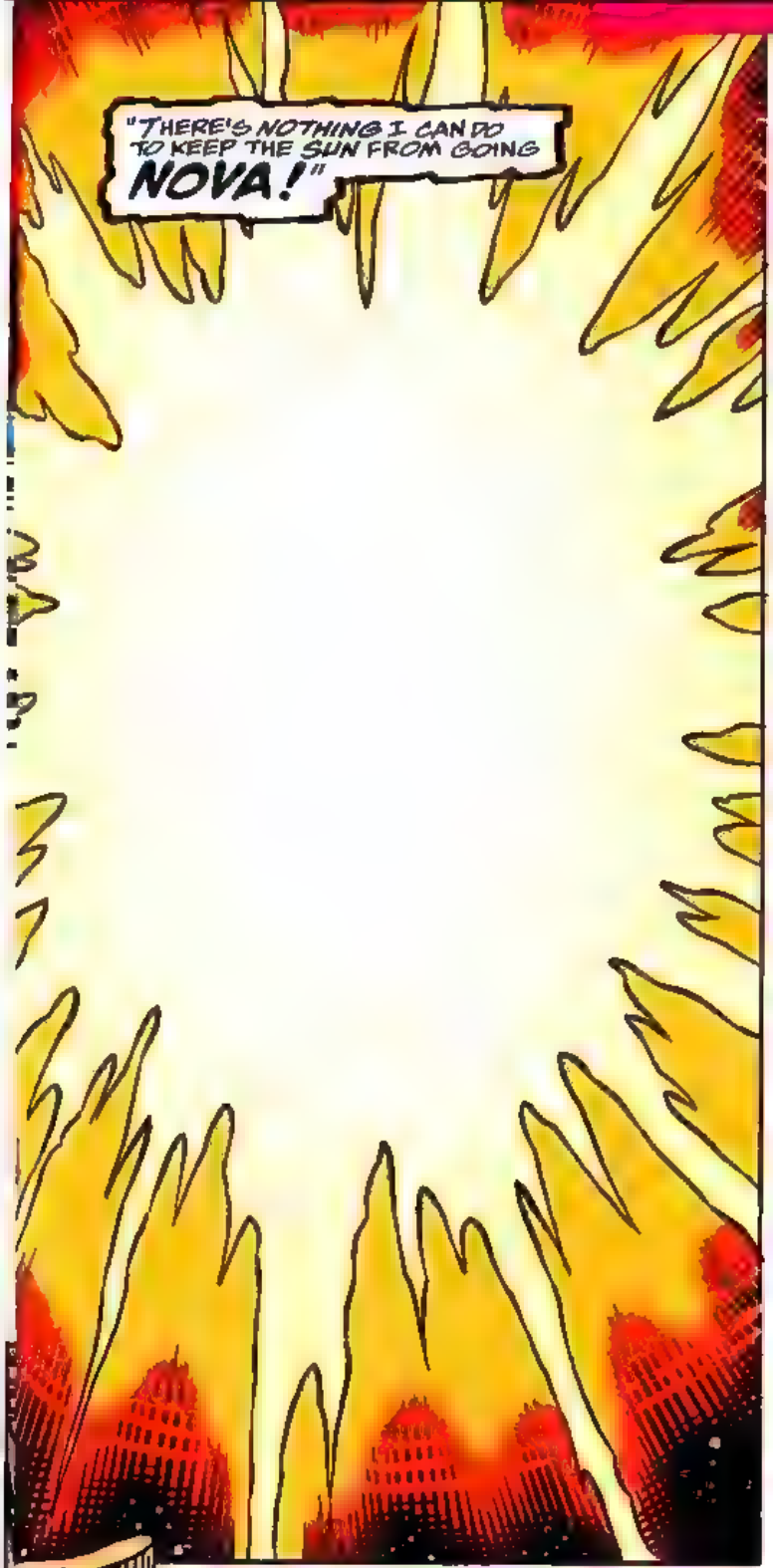
I'VE BEEN HOPING TO RUN INTO YOU!
WILD ONE, AIN'T SHE?
CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND WITH HER?
DON'T BOTHER.
JUST TAKE CARE OF THE SHAG RUG, OKAY?
HE'S A BIG ONE.
HUH?

WHAT THE—?
NICE MOVE.
WONDER IF THE HULK ALWAYS GOES INTO BATTLE IN SUCH A... NATURAL STATE.
WEIRD.
DA?


THE TEMPLE'S GUARDIAN IS DISPATCHED.
YET WE STILL DARE NOT PHYSICALLY ASSAULT THE CASTLE'S QUEEN BECAUSE OF PROBABLE SAFEGUARDS BUILT INTO THE COSMIC EGG TO PROTECT ITS USER
BUT SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL AVENUES TO THE GODDESS MAY NOT BE SO HEAVILY FORTIFIED.
PROF. X, ARE YOU READY TO PLAY THE PART OF A CATATONIC, BUT NONETHELESS VALIANT, HERO?
WHAT A MESS! SORRY, GAMORA.
I HAD NO IDEA I WAS TEAMED UP WITH SUCH A COLD-BLOODED CRAZY!
HUH?
WHO'S THIS?
THE POWER IS SWELLING WITHIN THE COSMIC EGG!
WE MUST ACT QUICKLY, PROFESSOR! THE GODDESS IS MAKING HER MOVE!

WE ARE WITH YOU, GODDESS!
LET THERE BE A CLEANSING!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MORE DIFFICULT THAN I CALCULATED, BREAKING THROUGH THE GODDESS'S INNER DEFENSES!
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG!
YES!
YES!
PURGING FLAME!
DON'T WALK


I AM NOT GOING TO GET THROUGH IN TIME!
TIGHTLY KNIT ENERGIES BEING BROADCAST FROM THE EGG!
I HAVE FAILED!
"INSTRUMENTATION SHOWS THE ENERGY BROADCAST IS BEING BEAMED TOWARD THIS SOLAR SYSTEM'S STAR, SOL!
"THE TRANSMISSION IS A MASSIVE DISRUPTION HARMONIC DESIGNED TO CREATE PRIME MOLECULAR DISORDER!
"NO WAY TO BLOCK THE BROADCAST OR SUBVERT ITS INTENTION! EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING JUST TOO QUICKLY!"



SEE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CRUSADE IN SILVER SURFER #85, THOR #467, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #106, ALPHA FLIGHT #126, AND DEATHLOK #29!

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE CONTINUES NEXT WEEK IN

WARLOCK CHRONICLES #51

AND STILL MORE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION CAN BE FOUND TWO WEEKS LATER IN THE PAGES OF

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #22

AND OUR COSMIC TALE CONCLUDES THE FOLLOWING WEEK IN

THE INFINITY CRUSADE #6 AND RAPTURE!

SILVER SURFER
AN INFINITY CRUSADE TIE-IN
1.25 US
85
OCT
THE GODDESS DEMANDS YOUR DEATH!
TO SAVE YOU WE MUST KILL YOU!
STORM!? WONDER MAN!!??
DIRECT EDITION
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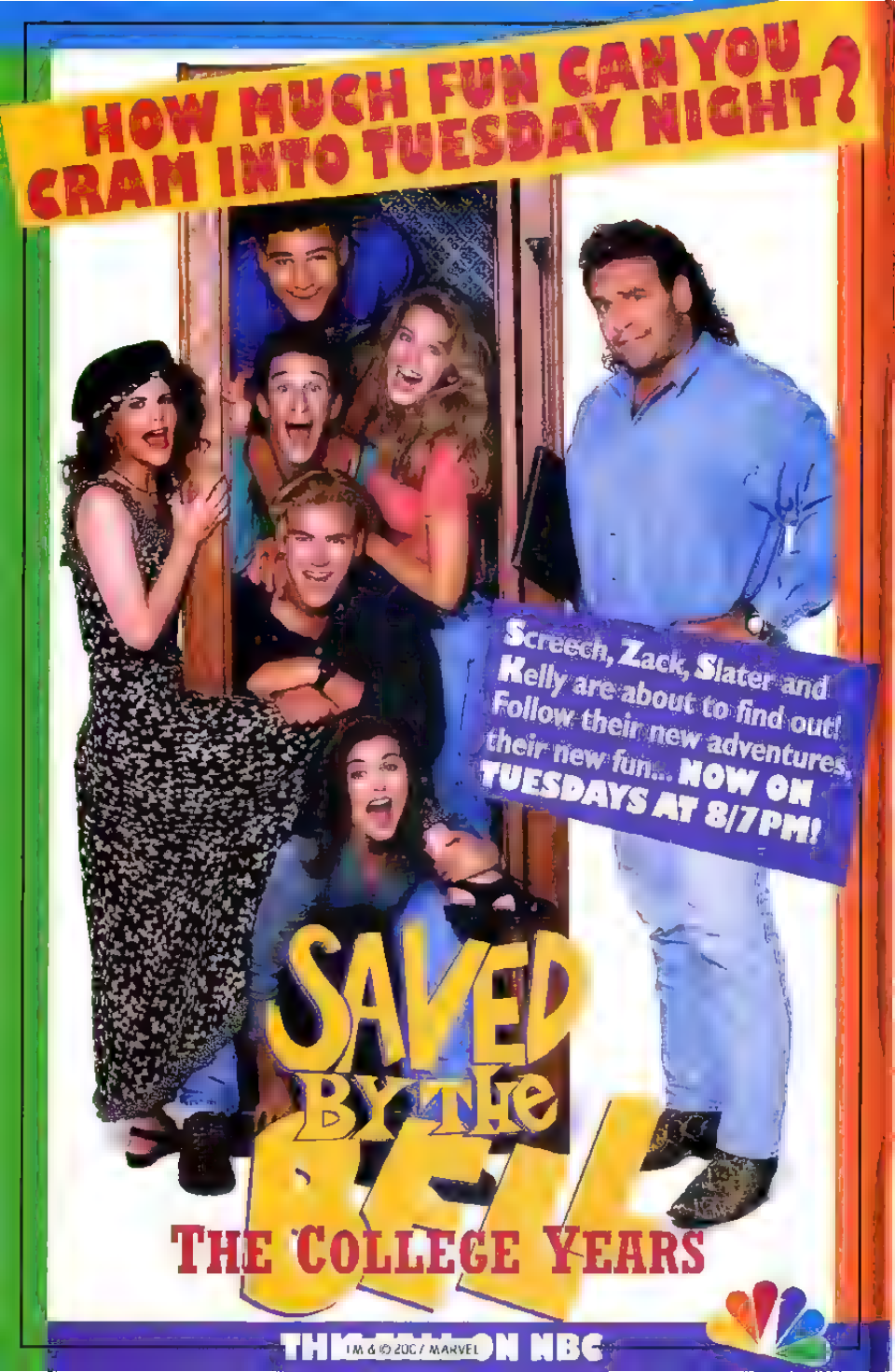
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SAVED BY THE BELL
THE COLLEGE YEARS
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STAN LEE presents:
SILVER SURFER
PARADISE OMEGA
HE LOOKS DEAD.
IF HE'S NOT, HE SHOULD BE.
WE SHOULD KILL HIM NOW. IT'S WHAT SHE WOULD WANT

SILVER SURFER! Vol. 3, No. 85, October 1993 SSN #0897-9111. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart President. Stan Lee Publisher. Michael Hobson Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE IS PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. All other foreign countries must add $12.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SILVER SURFER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SILVER SURFER, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada

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editor

TOM DEFALCO
editor in chief

YOU WERE TOLD WHAT HE DID - WE ALL WERE. HE WAS ONE OF OUR BRETHREN, BUT HE BETRAYED OUR MISTRESS-- STRAYED FROM HER HOLY PATH *
WE CAN'T ALLOW A HERETIC TO GO UNPUNISHED. WE MUST DESTROY HIM--AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE WHO REFUSE THE GODDESS.

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BUT WE WERE COMMANDED TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST EARTH'S UNCONVERTED HEROES.**
THE SILVER SURFER IS HARDLY IN A STATE TO BE OF ANY CONCERN TO US. WE SHOULD NOT WASTE TIME OR ENERGY UPON--
* INFINITY CRUSADE #3 AND SURFER #83 --CRAIG
** INFINITY CRUSADE #1. --SAME GUY

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NO.
WE DEAL WITH HIM NOW, ONCE AND FOR ALL ..
...SO HE CAN NEVER POSE A THREAT TO THE KINGDOM OF THE GODDESS.
BROTHER SIMON, THIS IS UNNECESSARY...
...UNK!..
..W-WONDER MAN..
..STORM..
...WAIT!

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YOUNG GUNS FOR '93 FLEER FOOTBALL.

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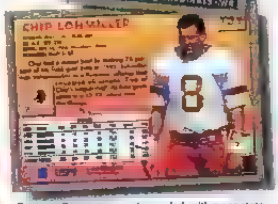

Basic card back: team color-coded, with more stats

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PERHAPS HE AGAIN SEES THE LIGHT.
FOR HIS SAKE...
...HE'D BETTER HOPE SO.
PLEASE... GIVE ME A MOMENT...
...I'M STILL WEAK FROM RELEASING ALL THE ENERGY... MY BODY CONTAINED...
*LAST ISSUE
I COULD CARE LESS. ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHETHER YOU'VE RETURNED TO THE GODDESS'S FLOCK.
DO YOU SERVE HER CAUSE? CAN WE CALL YOU BROTHER AGAIN?
THE GODDESS..
..THE GODDESS IS A FALSE DEITY
YOU WORSHIP HER BECAUSE SHE CLOUDS YOUR MINDS. I, TOO, WAS IN HER THRALL...
...BUT I WRESTED FREE: I KNOW HER FOR THE TYRANNICAL CREATURE SHE IS.
NOW YOU MUST THROW OFF HER SHACKLES AS WELL, PLEASE..
...YOU MUST SEE THE TRUTH IN WHAT I SAY

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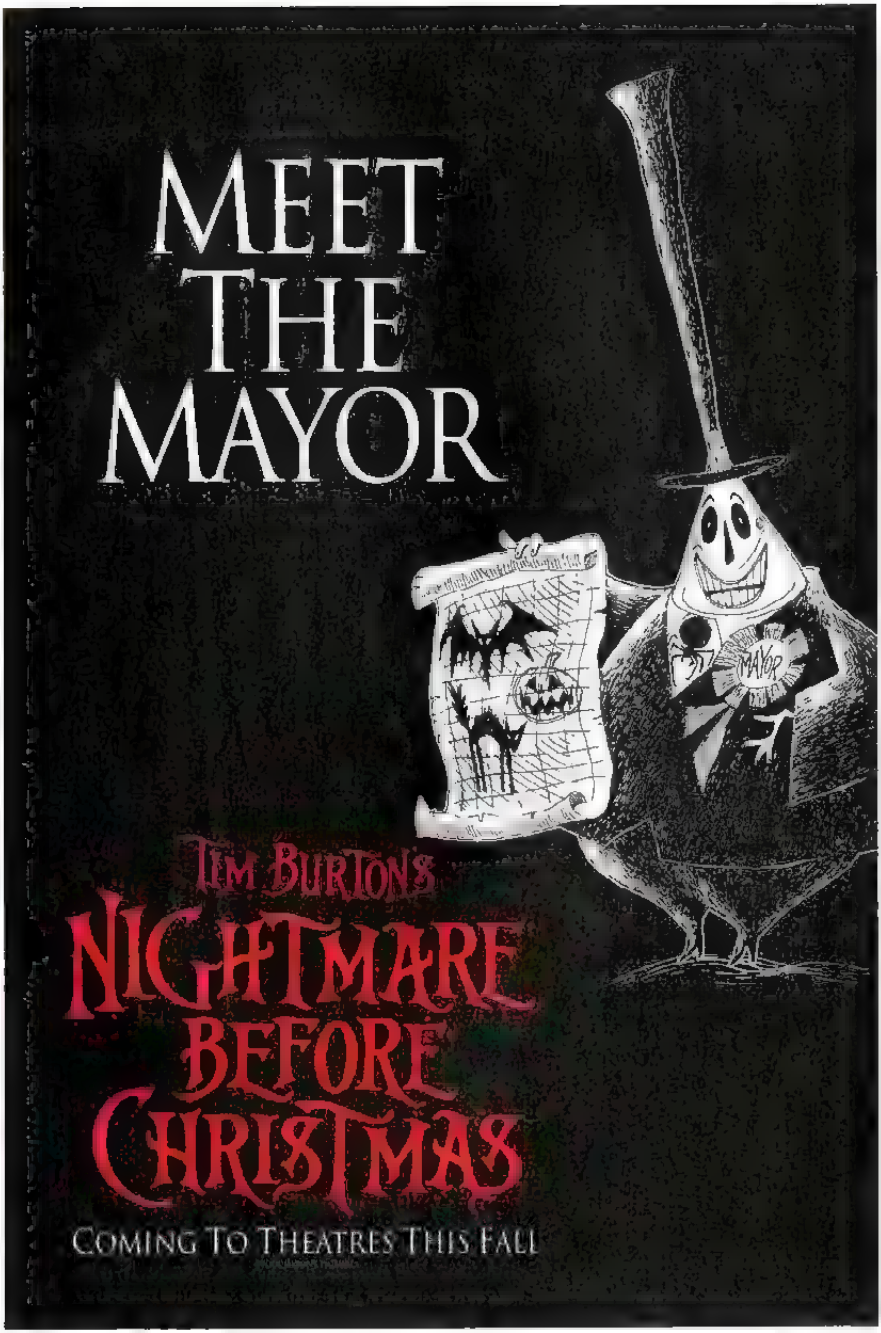

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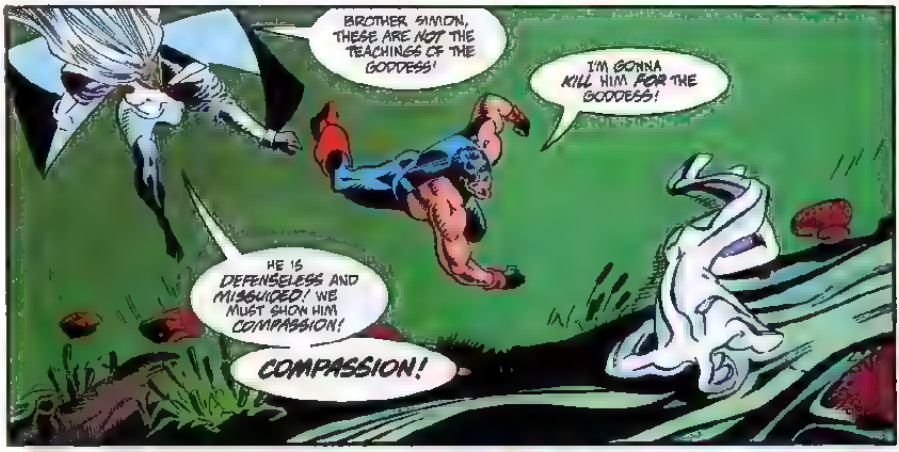
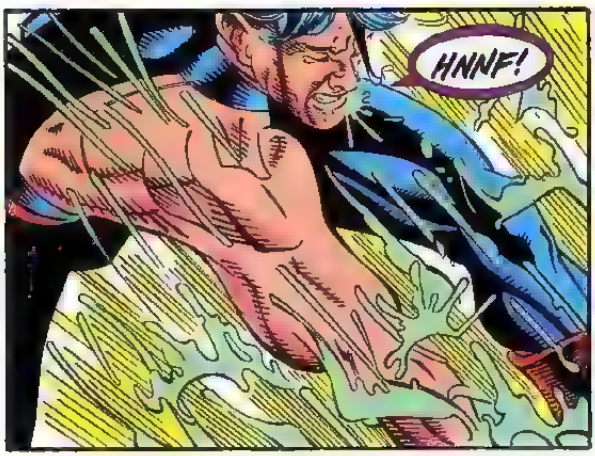
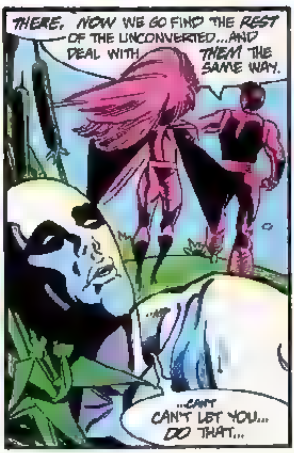

BROTHER SIMON, THESE ARE NOT THE TEACHINGS OF THE GODDESS!
I'M GONNA KILL HIM FOR THE GODDESS!
HE IS DEFENSELESS AND MISGUIDED! WE MUST SHOW HIM COMPASSION!
COMPASSION!





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HE'S STILL ALIVE!
LEAVE HIM, BROTHER SIMON! IT IS NOT THE GODDESS'S WAY TO KILL.
THE GODDESS PREACHES PEACE AND LOVE, NOT MURDER. HER PATH IS NOT THE PATH OF VIOLENCE.
YEAH, RIGHT.
STOP, SIMON!
...CAN'T LET YOU ATTACK EARTH'S HEROES...
...TRIED TO WARN THEM... BEFORE...
...BUT I WAS WAYLAID BY THANOS...*
...HAVE TO MAKE AMENDS NOW.. HAVE TO BRING YOU TO YOUR SENSES...
...BEFORE THIS IS FULL-SCALE WAR..
ALL RIGHT. HOW DO YOU WANT IT?
*INFINITY CRUSADE #4 AND SURFER #84. -CRAIG

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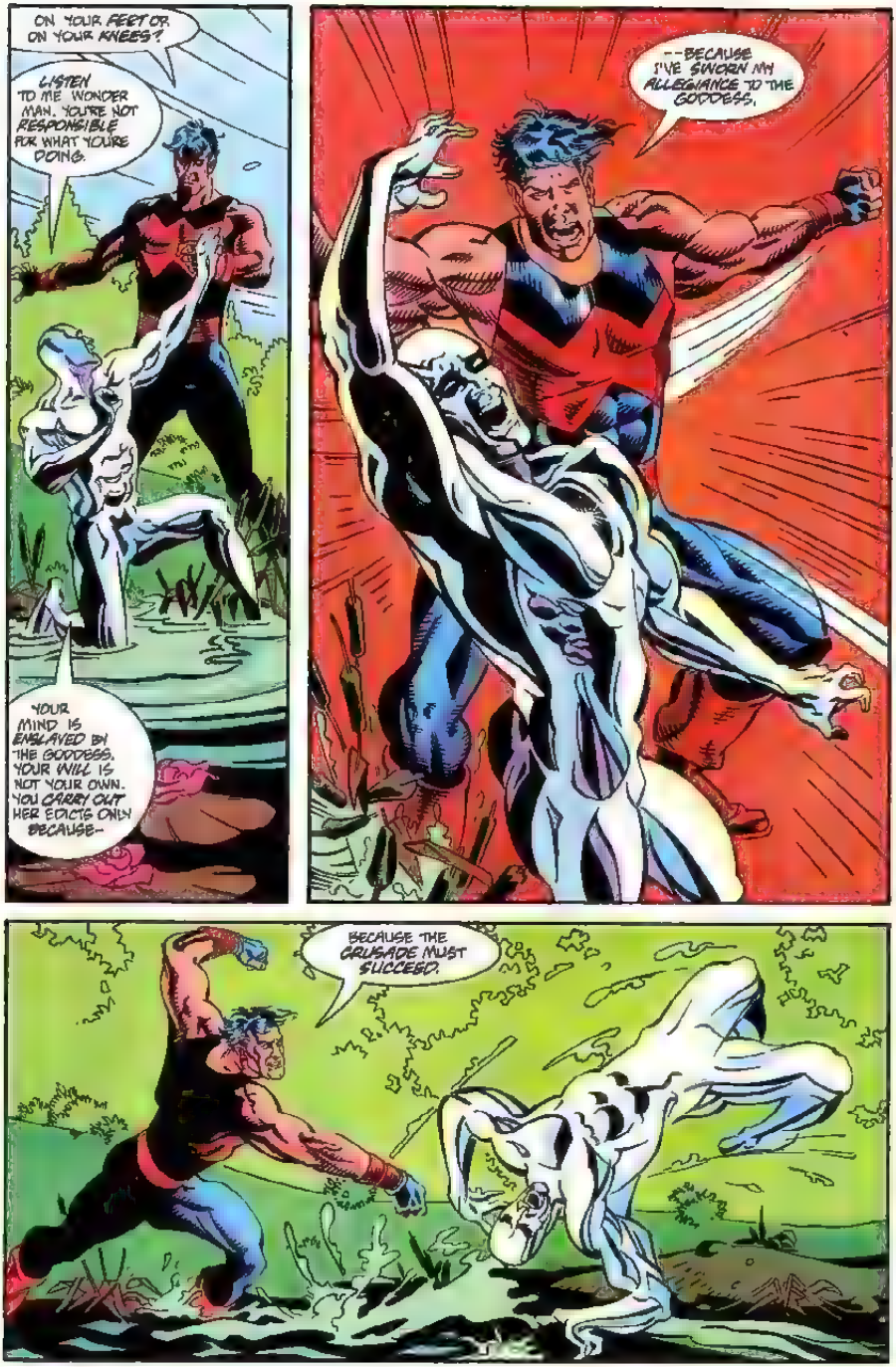
ON YOUR FEET OR ON YOUR KNEES?
LISTEN TO ME WONDER MAN. YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
YOUR MIND IS ENSLAVED BY THE GODDESS. YOUR WILL IS NOT YOUR OWN. YOU CARRY OUT HER EDICTS ONLY BECAUSE-
--BECAUSE I'VE SWORN MY ALLEGIANCE TO THE GODDESS.
BECAUSE THE CRUSADE MUST SUCCEED.

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YOU HAVE TO FIND THE WILL TO THROW OFF HER CONTROL. JOIN ME IN OPPOSING HER.
SOON MY POWER COSMIC WILL BE REPLENISHED. TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT HER, BEFORE SHE DOMINATES ALL CREATION.
NOTHING WILL PREVENT THE ASCENSION OF THE GODDESS!
LEAST OF ALL A TRAITOR TO HER DIVINE CAUSE!
UFF!
GAAH!
AGH!

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ENOUGH, BROTHER SIMON.
HE IS BEATEN, AND THERE ARE OTHER DUTIES TO PERFORM FOR THE GODDESS. THE UNCONVERTED STILL ROAM THE FOREST.
NOT QUITE DONE YET.
I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED WITH SOMETHING...
...YOU THROW IT OUT.
WE HAVE LOITERED LONG ENOUGH. THE RAPTURE APPROACHES..

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WONDER MAN! STORM!
I KNOW YOUR TRUE NATURES. I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN BLINDED BY A SEDUCTIVE POWER.
BROTHER SIMON..
WHAT? AGAIN?
UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS APPARENT YOU CANNOT BREAK THE GODDESS'S HOLD UPON YOU. YOU STILL SERVE HER WITH SINGLE-MINDED FANATICISM.
I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO FURTHER THE GODDESS'S OPPRESSIVE CAUSE, SO I AM LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE...
...BUT TO ACT ACCORDINGLY.

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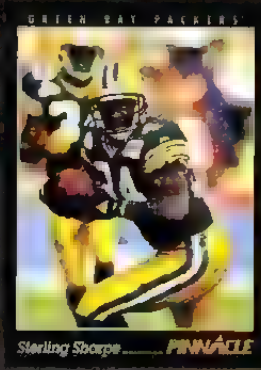

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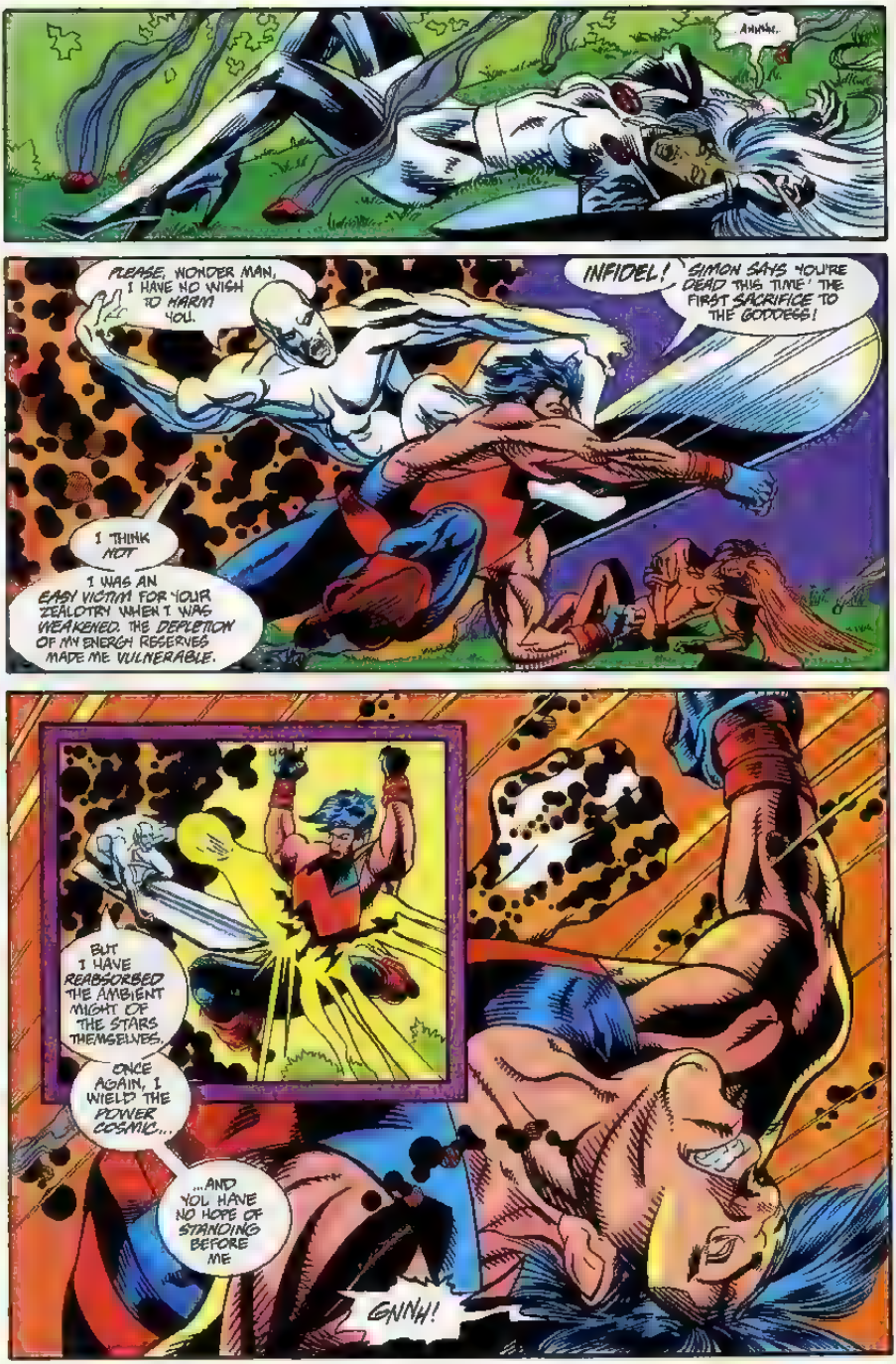
Ahhhh.
PLEASE, WONDER MAN, I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU.
INFIDEL! SIMON SAYS YOU'RE DEAD THIS TIME! THE FIRST SACRIFICE TO THE GODDESS!
I THINK NOT
I WAS AN EASY VICTIM FOR YOUR ZEALOTRY WHEN I WAS WEAKENED. THE DEPLETION OF MY ENERGY RESERVES MADE ME VULNERABLE.
BUT I HAVE REABSORBED THE AMBIENT MIGHT OF THE STARS THEMSELVES.
ONCE AGAIN, I WIELD THE POWER COSMIC...
...AND YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF STANDING BEFORE ME
GNNH!

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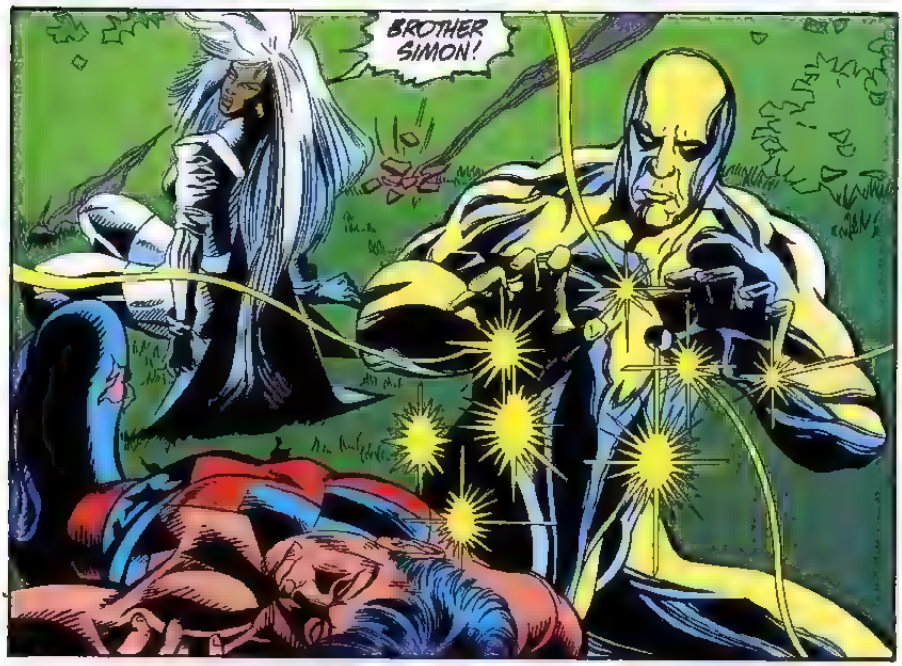

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARK'S REMARKS

It's the end of the summer. It's hot in New York. Tempers are rising with the thermometer. It puts me in the mood to list my comicbook pet peeves

1. I hate it when people who cannot spell "weird" or "villains" insist upon using these words in print! It's not "wierd (vaudelvillians)" Spell 'em right or use other words, blast it!
2. I hate it when artists don't ink in black areas on costumes, leaving it to the colorist to render in grey. Black is black, it's not grey, blast it!
3. I hate when writers posit that extraterrestrials can procreate with human beings. Look, humans share 99% of the same genetic information as chimpanzees and we can't procreate with *them*, so how can we be expected to procreate with aliens, blast it!?!
4. I hate it when other writers beat me to the punch with character names I'm about to use. Lately it's been happening with alarming frequency. blast it!
5. I hate the fact that the Bullpen Bulletin page gets so little mail. Write in, you Marveloids! Somebody at least try to define all the terms in the Borderline Blather, blast it!
6. I hate comic creators whose idea of a new character is to rip off a combination of existing Marvel characters. Get an original idea, blast it!
7. I hate it that Tom DeFalco still gets so many "Best Editor" votes in various fan polls. He's the best Editor in Chief, not the best Editor, blast it!
8. I hate it when people buy comics for investment instead of reading pleasure. May all your "investments" go down in value, blast it!
9. I hate Marvel movies that stink, blast it!
10. I hate first person narration in otherwise fine funnybooks. Hey, you writers, enough's enough. Get a new gimmick, blast it!

Ahhh ... I feel so much better now. Have a nice day.

Mark

The big story: summer sports! Softball! Running! Bowling! (Bowling?) Yes, we said bowling! Our Marveloids have gotten so caught up in an athletic frenzy — sort of like Wolverine going into one of his berserker rages — that they'll play just about anything (Rumor has it that a "Kick the Can" league will be forming soon!)

The Marvel softball team, the Punishers, has been kicking some cans this summer — our record is a fantastic 4-2, as of early July In our first game against DC, we Decisively Conquered them in a 22-11 blowout, making them wish knightfall would come that much sooner. There will be three more DC-Marvel games this summer, so we'll see if the reign of the super men is truly over.

Heavy Hitters for the Punishers this year include Associate editor **Mark "Super" Powers**, Bullpenner **Joe "Captain Psycho" Caponessco**, and typesetter **Dan "the Other Man" Carr**. Associate editor **David Wohl**, who is Managing General Partner for the Punishers, said the spiffy new Marvel uniforms are "quite daunting to the other teams, especially DC." Dave's prediction for any team that plays Marvel this year? "Pain!"

Feeling no pain is Executive Editor **Bob Budiansky**, who is captain of our running team in the Corporate Challenge, a thrice annual, three-and-a-half-mile race held in Central Park. The first race was held June 16, where Marvel's fastest runner was **Craig Miller**, Bobbie Chase's intern, who finished in 21:17 minutes. Our fastest staffer was the new Mr. Bobbie Chase, **Craig Kunasinck** of our Direct Sales Department who did it in 22:18. (Apparently it was a good day for guys named Craig. While the race was occurring, editor **Craig Anderson** reportedly edited an issue of SILVER SURFER in under 20 minutes!) Fastest Marvel female was **Jane Gonzalez** of our Accounting Department, who clocked in at 35:30 minutes. Overall, the Marvel team came in 19th among media/publishing/advertising corporations.

Captain Bob said the team looked to him for leadership — not during the race, but afterward, when it was time to pick a place for dinner! (And some people think all we do is eat lunch around here!) Bob had high praise for Associate Editor **Sarra Mossoff**, who designed the Venom-ific running shirts for the team this year.

Finally, we come to a sport where we remain unchallenged — bowling! Assistant editor **James Felder** (or, "Professor Pins", as he's known to his friends), was inspired to form a Marvel bowling league this past summer. As he put it, "We wanted a game that any fat slob could play!" Well, the Blob couldn't make try-outs this year, but plenty of other Marveloids signed up for a Marvelous league of their own, which began in August. Since the league features only Marveloids, the Professor cackled excitedly, "Marvel's gonna win no matter what! But don't tell DC about us," the Prof plooded. "Until we become the World's Greatest Bowling team, let's just keep it our little secret . .!"

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- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #381:** Dr. Doom wants to end the Hunger!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #15:** It's blazing battle action as Blaze gets a new costume and powers!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #297:** It's a three-for-all: Iron Man vs. Modern X, Unusual Suspects!
- ☐ **LAWDOG #6:** He won't let up and Leg for anyone!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #140:** Wolverine! Ghost Rider! Spellbound!
- ☐ **MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #36:** Data on Hellstorm, Omega Red, and others!
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #53:** He's the anti-Moon Knight! He's [illegible]
- ☐ **PUNISHER #84:** [illegible] How the Punisher met and lost his dog!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #85:** The [illegible] is bagged with DIRT on the other, Surfy [illegible]
- ☐ **THOR #467:** Thor is too crazy to realize this issue is an INFINITY CRUSADE crossover!
- ☐ **VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE #3 OF 3:** Punisher and Venom are putting out Pyre — with gasoline!
- ☐ **X-FORCE ANNUAL #2:** Introducing X-Tremist
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC #88:** Reprinting the first appearance of Fergal

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GODDESS, GRANT ME THE STRENGTH I NEED!
LET THE HOWLING WINDS BOW TO MY DEMANDS.
LET THE DRENCHING RAINS BEAT DOWN.
LET THE THUNDER PEAL AND THE LIGHTNING STREAK ACROSS THE SKY.
LET THE STORM RAGE!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

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NO! YOU MISUNDERSTAND MY ACTIONS!
I SAW CLEARLY ENOUGH.
YOU WERE NOT SATISFIED TO SIMPLY TRIUMPH OVER BROTHER SIMON. THOUGH HE WAS PRONE AND HELPLESS BEFORE YOU, YOU WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIS LIFE.
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
NNGH!
THE MERCILESS POWER OF THE TEMPEST IS MINE, ENOUGH TO--
HOLD.

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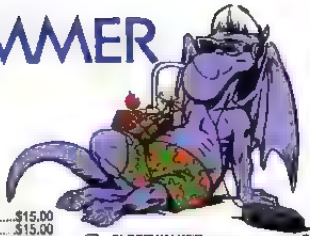

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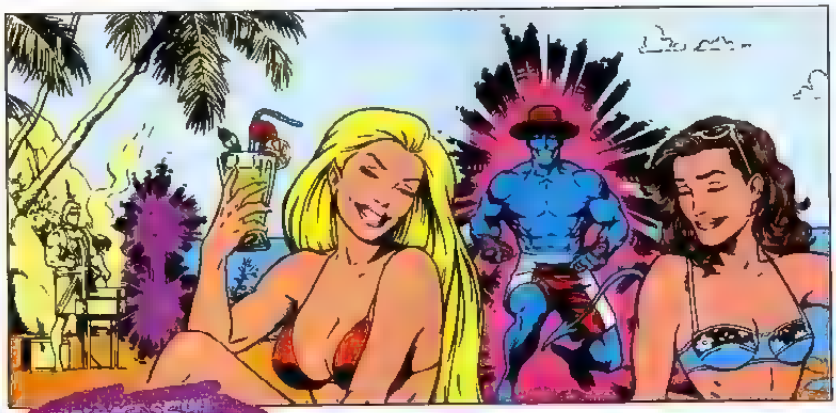

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WHAT YOU SUSPECT IS NOT WHAT I INTENDED.
IT IS TRUE THAT MOST OFTEN I AM FORCED TO USE MY POWER COSMIC IN CONFLICT. BUT THE ENERGIES I CONTROL CAN MEND AS WELL AS DESTROY.
I CARELESSLY INJURED WONDER MAN IN MY ATTEMPTS TO RESTRAIN THE TWO OF YOU REALIZING WHAT I HAD DONE, I SOUGHT TO HEAL HIM.
HEAL HIM-- BUT..YOU ARE MY ENEMY--
WAS IT NOT YOU WHO URGED COMPASSION ?
I.... FORGIVE MY IGNORANCE AND MY DISTRUST.
PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR HIM
WONDER MAN WILL BE HALE SHORTLY. THE WOUNDS ARE MERELY SUPERFICIAL.
CAN YOU STAND ?
YEAH, I CAN I'M FINE.
YOU HEALED ME, DIDN'T YOU? AFTER I DID MY BEST TO KILL YOU.

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AS I SAID, IT WAS NEVER MY INTENT TO INJURE. PERHAPS KNOWING THAT HELPS YOU PERCEIVE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.
PERHAPS YOU CAN FIND THE WILL POWER TO TURN AWAY FROM THE GODDESS.
DESPITE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE...SHE REMAINS OUR MISTRESS.
SHE IS RIGHTEOUS. OUR DEVOTION IS UNSHAKABLE.
IT APPEARS WE ARE AT AN IMPASSE. I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU. YET YOU INSIST UPON CARRYING OUT YOUR CRUSADE.
THEN WE AGAIN COME TO BLOWS?
I AM LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE...
...BUT TO LET YOU DEPART PEACEFULLY. MY EFFORTS WILL BE BETTER DIRECTED ELSEWHERE.
IT IS THE...COMPASSIONATE THING TO DO.
YOU POSSESS A RARE NOBILITY, SURFER. I HOPE YOU WILL ONE DAY AGAIN SEE THE LIGHT.
I HAVE THE SAME HOPE FOR YOU.
THEN FAREWELL. OUR DUTY BECKONS
AS DOES MINE.
IF I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO OPPOSE THE INNOCENTS WHO ARE THE GODDESS'S SOLDIERS...
...I MUST TAKE THE BATTLE TO THE GODDESS HERSELF.

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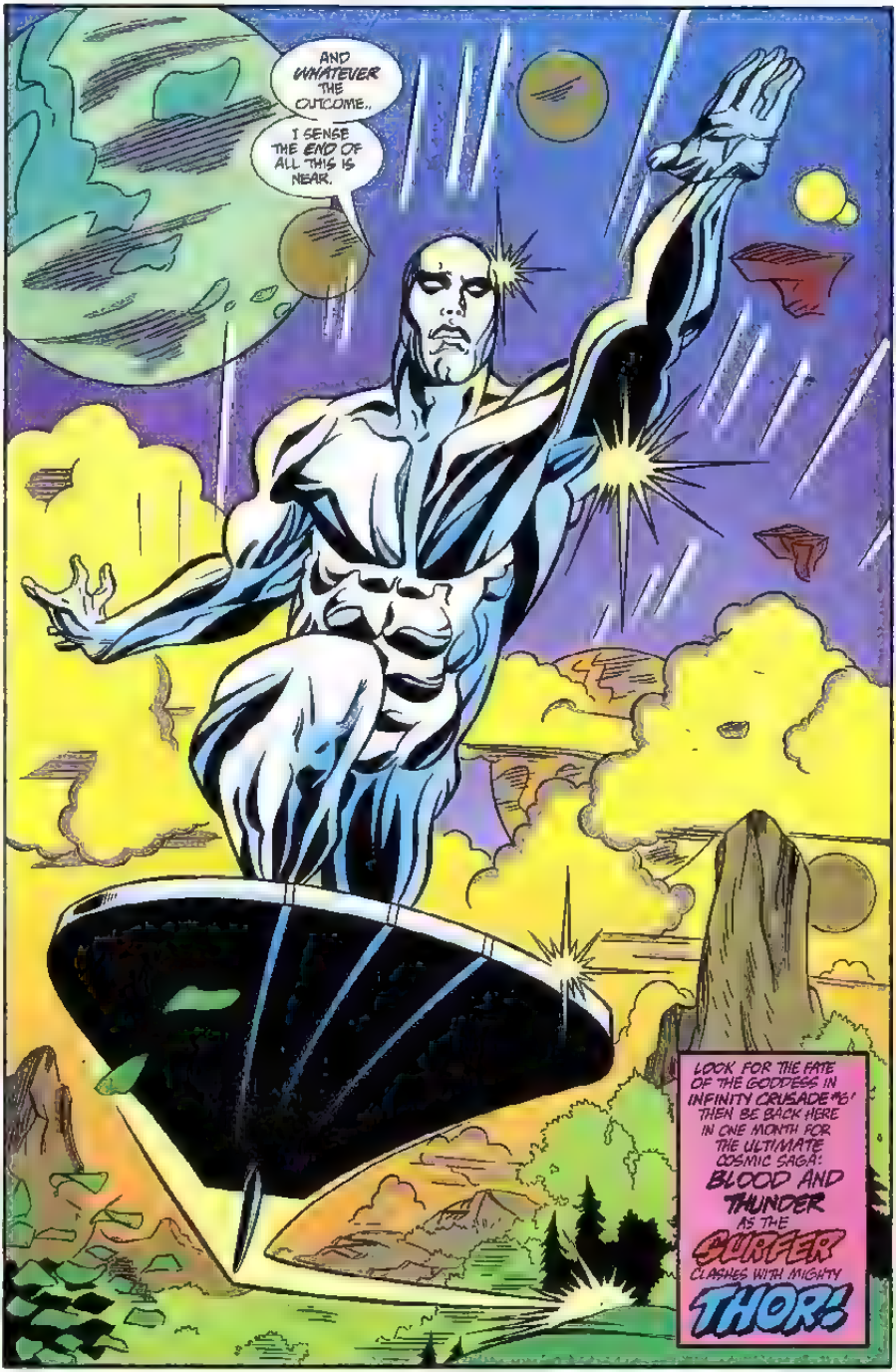
AND WHATEVER THE OUTCOME...
I SENSE THE END OF ALL THIS IS NEAR.
LOOK FOR THE FATE OF THE GODDESS IN INFINITY CRUSADE #6, THEN BE BACK HERE IN ONE MONTH FOR THE ULTIMATE COSMIC SAGA: BLOOD AND THUNDER AS THE SURFER CLASHES WITH MIGHTY THOR!

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Editor—Craig Anderson Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York—10016

Attention Correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

To the Cosmic Pipeline,

That was a cool cover on SILVER SURFER #80. Silver Surfer at the bottom, holding Morg's Axe, looked cool Ganymede is a babe! The art on this book is cool, but most especially on page 6 with the Surfer gliding upside-down. Ron Lim and Tom Christopher should both get raises.

And talk about your vicious battles! Morg and Terrax were destroying that planet they were on! Another great issue, guys!

Zak Haines
8723 River Lane
Kingston, IL 60145

We're cool like that, Zak.

Cosmic Pipeline,

Morg vs. Terrax! Awesome! Incredible! Great! Did I mention that I liked it?

What a fight, what a fight! Not since Thanos vs. Thanos has the Marvel Universe been rocked so hard by a single confrontation. I can safely say that Morg is my favorite Marvel character, edging out my long-time favorite, the Blob! Like many readers (I believe), I was beginning to wonder if poor old Galactus was ever going to hire any decent help, and now he has! Morg! Go, Morg!

In response to the protests about Nova's death: keep her dead! I applaud your initiative in removing her from the storyline, and I plead to you to keep her removed. I admit, you actually surprised me when you killed her. All through the "Herald Ordeal", the local Surfer readers and I were placing bets on which former herald was going to die, but none of us guessed Nova.

Regarding Morg: he's the first comic character I have wanted to come back from the dead. Don't lose him! There's already a quiet groundswell of support for a Morg fan club.

In conclusion—keep Nova dead! Keep Morg alive!

Kane Sevy
Rt. 3, Box 176
Harrisonville, MO 64701

The plans we have for Morg, Kane...well, they are too much to even begin to mention. Have you seen the Ron Lim pinup in the SURFER ANNUAL #5? Check it out for a hint as to the current fate of Morg!

Ron and Craig,

I am an avid fan of THE SILVER SURFER and many other Marvel titles. While the plotlines have not always proceeded the way I would have written them, I have always looked forward to each issue and all the delights and frustrations within. Unfortunately, I have a serious problem with one direction this book has taken, despite the fact that I have enjoyed Ron's stories more than those of any other writer this series has had.

In issue #80, you printed a letter by Jennifer Lardies pointing out that the circumstances of and leading up to the death of Nova did not speak very well of your views towards women. In response, you quickly brushed off the criticism saying, " If all the heralds had been female except one male, and that one male got killed, would we get letters complaining about that?"

Well, folks, it's unfortunate that you brushed Jennifer off so quickly because she was right on the money. And the fact that you gave such an abrupt answer to the incident which motivated her to write, when what she was clearly attempting was to bring to light a pattern of such characterization, indicates a disturbing level of denial on your part.

Please folks, this isn't just a bleeding-heart PC letter. Jennifer made some valid points that should be addressed. When I saw Jennifer's letter, I rejoiced that someone took the time to address a pattern that has been apparent for a long time now. When I saw your response, I became very sad. You Marvel people need to realize that your readership includes some very young people whose views of others are shaped somewhat by what they find in these pages. If you don't wish to assess this situation for your own sakes, do it for theirs.

John Odum
1245 SE 49th #11
Portland, OR 97215

Well, John, we'd like first to apologize to Jennifer if she thought our answer was a brush-off. Everyone's opinion is important to us.

As you can see from letters we have printed in other issues and the letters in this issue, the death of Nova is a controversial event. A sudden death always leaves us wondering why. We want you to know, however, that she did not die because she was a woman. Morg would probably have killed his predecessor no matter what gender he, she or it was. (Sadly, such a practice has not been uncommon here on earth.)

Dear Cosmic Pipeline,

I can always count on the SILVER SURFER series to introduce some spectacular new characters into the Marvel Universe. Ganymede is a wonderful addition to the Marvel Universe. I enjoyed her appearance in issue #80 and #81 thus far, and look forward to her further exploits with the sentinel of the spaceways in issue #82. She is a promising character who possesses a great deal of potential for development, appeal and popularity, even though she physically resembles Psylocke of the X-Men. One aspect of her character I found quite interesting is that she and her race, the Spinsterhood, had combatted the desires of the flesh through intense military training. Ganymede must have plenty of repressed energy, and that makes her, evidently, very dangerous. The new villain, Tyrant, is also a serious force to reckon with. I anticipate his continued participation in the series.

Nevertheless, I tend to praise villains and anti-heroes more than heroes. Of course, THE SILVER SURFER title itself is not unknown for introducing impressive characters. Back in issues #68 through #70, the awesome Khoon the Explorer made his first appearances. Although he suffered a tragic fate at the hands of Galactus, he is not irrecoverable. Please, bring him back soon and with a vengeance!

Steven Beg
6 Cross Street
Weston, Ontario
M9N 2B9, Canada

We're sorry to have to cut your letter so short, Steven, but we wanted to include at least part of it. We don't have plans for Khoon the Explorer in the near future, but we do have an insane Thunder God!

NEXT ISSUE: The Surfer meets up with Beta Ray Bill again, but their reunion goes to ruin when they are attacked by a raging, out-of-control Thunder God! Thor's out for blood and nothing can stop him! Also guest-starring Adam Warlock and Pip the Troll! See you in thirty!

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DEATHLOK

AN INFINITY CRUSADE™ CROSSOVER

DIRECT EDITION

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The Visitation

MOUNT KOSCIUSKO IS THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS. THIS MAKES IT AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR TIMESTREAM'S TRANSMISSION STATION.

WHAT EXACTLY THE STATION IS FOR IS WHAT DEATHLOK AND SIEGE WERE TRYING TO FIND OUT...

...RIGHT BEFORE THEY GOT TIMESTREAM RIGHT WHERE HE WANTED THEM!

MINE THIS AUSTRALIA IS TO BE. HEROES SOON NOT TO BE PRESENT.

YOU AIN'T MAKING AN OUNCE OF SENSE.

FUTURE HISTORY IS MINE TO KNOW. YOURS TO REGRET.

SOON REVEALED IT WILL BE--

THE VISITATION

WE STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU CHECK OUT INFINITY CRUSADE #1-4 BEFORE DIVING IN. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

GREGORY WRIGHT-WRITER
KEVIN KOBASIC-PENCILER
GREG ADAMS- INKER
LOPEZ & SHARPE-LETTERER
SARRA MOSSOFF-COLORIST
TOM BREVOORT- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

DEATHLOK ™, Vol. 1, No. 28, October, 1993. ISSN # 1058-0773) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart President Stan Lee Publisher Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK N Y 10016 **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES**. Published monthly Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. All rights reserved Price $1 75 per copy in the U S and $2 25 in Canada Subscription rate for 12 issues $21 00 U S Canadian subscribers must add $8 00 for postage and GST GST #R127032852 Foreign $33 00 No similarity between any of the names, characters persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed nor in a mutilated condition DEATHLOK (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC **POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DEATHLOK, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK N Y 10016**. Printed in Canada

THIS MOMENT IN TIME HAVE I CHOSEN, DURING WHAT IS CALLED BY HISTORY THE INFINITY CRUSADE--

--SO YOU CAN HAVE FREE REIN TO CONQUER.

YOUR TIME ZONE'S HEROES ARE SOON TO BE WARRING AMONGST THEMSELVES IN SPACE

REIGN. YES.

AND YOU THINK THIS ENERGY'S GONNA STOP US--?

I THINK I CAN REROUTE THIS STUFF--

WHO?

--AND SET US LOOSE--

--YOU LISTENIN--

SO... BEAUTIFUL!

?!!

I AM THE GODDESS, AND I HAVE COME FOR YOU.

I HAVE FELT YOUR PAIN. IT IS SINCERELY TRAGIC THE WAY YOUR LIFE WAS STOLEN FROM YOU AND ENCASED IN THAT WHICH YOU MOST ABHOR.

I KNOW THE LOSS YOUR FAMILY MUST HAVE FELT WHEN THEY LEARNED OF YOUR FATE.

I CAN HEAL YOUR PAIN AND SUFFERING FOR ALL ETERNITY.

BUT FIRST, I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SERVICES TO HELP RID THIS UNIVERSE OF THE EVIL WHICH PERVADES IT!

OH, YES! I CAN FEEL THE SALVATION IN YOUR WORDS, GODDESS...

WAIT.

I HAVE ERRED.

YOU ARE NO *LONGER* THE MAN OF *VIRTUE* ONCE BEHELD IN MY *VISION.*

YOU ARE *UNWORTHY* OF MY *GRANDEUR.*

YOU HAVE *FALLEN* FROM GRACE.

NO! I'VE *SERVED* MY PENANCE!

COME BACK!

NO!

DEATHLOK, ARE YA HOME?

WHY...

WHAT HAVE I *DONE?*

YOU AIN'T *DONE* A FREAKIN' THING! *I* BEEN DOIN' IT, AND IT'S HAPPENIN' *NOW!*

SHREE

GUHHH!

NOW GET YOUR HEAD *OUTTA* YOUR HINDQUARTERS, AN' LET'S TAKE THIS JERKWEED *OUT!*

WHAT COULD I HAVE *DONE* TO BE *UNWORTHY* OF THE *GODDESS'S* ENLIGHTENMENT?

I'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN A MAN OF *VIRTUE.*

I DON'T KNOW 'BOUT ANY *GODDESS,* BUT YOUR *VIRTUE* TOOK A HEADER INTO THE TOILET WHEN YA TRIED TO KILL *YOURSELF* AND *RYKER* A WHILE BACK.

AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE MEMORIES FLOATIN' AROUND IN MY CRANIUM.

DO YOU REMEMBER *EVERYTHING* I EVER DID?

PRETTY MUCH. AND IT'S PRETTY *SAD.*

UHHH...

SZUROOM SZUROOM SZUROOM SZUROOM

C'MON, DEATHLOK, WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' ON? THE SECOND COMING?

SHAZZT

CURIOUS I AM

MUCH ABOUT ME DO YOU KNOW, WITHOUT EVER MEETING--

WHY?

WHY HAVE I HAD SALVATION DANGLED LIKE A CARROT IN FRONT OF MY EYES, ONLY TO HAVE IT YANKED AWAY?

TO KNOW... TO FEEL HOPE... AND THEN TO HAVE IT ERASED... IS ALMOST WORSE THAN BEING TRAPPED IN THIS THING.

HAVE I TRULY BECOME THE MONSTER I HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST?

WHY HAS THE GODDESS SPURNED ME?

WHY HAS SHE TORTURED ME TO THE CORE?

NEW YORK CITY.

WAHHH!

SHH TISHA, YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP. AW, SH--

NO FOUL LANGUAGE ALLOWED! YOU NEED SOME HELP, MOM?

WAHHH!

I NEED A LOT OF HELP, NICK.

=YAWN= STILL TICKED OFF AT DAD FOR GOIN' AFTER SIEGE, HUH?

NO. I KNOW HE HAD TO GO.

WE HAVE SOME MAJOR THINGS TO TALK ABOUT, NICK, AND I...

I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT TO WORRY YOU...

SOKAY, MOM.

I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING. I'M THE MAN OF THE HOUSE

YOU SURE ARE.

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF MONEY, OUR INSURANCE IS GONE, AND I CAN'T EVEN FIND A TEMP JOB AROUND HERE.

YOUR FATHER KEEPS GETTING INTO MORE AND MORE SITUATIONS THAT COULD GET HIM KILLED OR PLACE US IN JEOPARDY, AND THAT MEANS WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO--

I KNOW ALL THAT, BUT HE'S STILL MY DAD! BESIDES, HE'S ON THE VERGE OF MAKING SOME MEGA-BUCKS WITH THEM VIDEO GAMES, AN' I COULD TRY DELIVERIN' PAPERS--

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, NICK.

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA..

..WHERE EVEN LEISURE TIME IS SPENT IN COMBAT.

S'MATTER, LUTHER? RYKER CHEW OUT YOUR SPIRIT AS WELL AS YOUR BUTT THIS MORNING?

I JUST GOT--

"...THINGS ON MY MIND."

YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT A SECTION EIGHT?

YESSIR

YOU CLAIM SOMEONE BROKE INTO THIS COMPOUND, SUBDUED YOU LEAVING NO MARKS, AND VANISHED AFTER TELLING YOU THAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DEATHLOK?

I'M STANDING BY IT, SIR.

HMMM...

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SEEING THE BASE PSYCHIATRIST PRIVATELY MANNING, BUT I'M ORDERING A THOROUGH AND OFFICIAL PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION OF--

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, COLONEL?

GEN RYKER

C-CAPTAIN AMERICA--

"I TRIED TO KILL CAPTAIN AMERICA!"

NO! I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS!

GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, SOLDIER!

MY NAME AINT MANNING, MR. FLAG!

I'M DEATHLOK, DO YA HEAR? WITH NO PAST-- NO FUTURE! I'M DEATHLOK!

IT AIN'T REAL!

GET HIM OFF TRAVERS BEFORE HE CHOKES HIM!

GEEZ, MANNING! WHAT'S WITH YOU?

YOU'RE STARTIN' TO SCARE EVERYONE, MAN!

:GAKK!: :HUUUUP!:

LATER...

:HUUULF!:

I AINT NUTS!

AM I?

NO!

SKRCH

WHA--?

I AM THE GODDESS.

FATE HAS CHOSEN TO GIFT YOU WITH HUMANITY IN THIS REALITY LUTHER MANNING

RELISH IT, FOR ENLIGHTENMENT S COMING AND YOU MAY PARTAKE OF ITS GOODNESS.

I I WILL

AUSTRALIA.

OF GREAT IMPORTANCE COULD YOU BE IN MY NEW REGIME!

NO CHANCE...

GUZROOM

HEY, BUTTHEAD! HOW 'BOUT SOME HELP BEFORE WE WIND UP LOOKIN' LIKE TOYS ON A SHELF AGAIN?

KCHOW

CRIPES, DEATHLOK, HAVE SOME DIGNITY!

YOU MAY THINK LEAPING THROUGH TIMEZONES TO FIND ONE WEAK ENOUGH TA CONQUER IS A SMART MOVE, TIMESTREAM, BUT THE UNDERDOG'S ALWAYS GOT MORE GRISTLE TO--

HEY! JUST WHAT DO YA--?

CHOOM

KETOORT

OUT OF COMMISSION SHALL HE BE

ALERT: Electromagne*? #?,^^!!^*+$##

ENOUGH OF MY LIFE I HAVE HEARD.

WHOAAA!!

UHRRRRRRRR

THE CHOICE TO JOIN YOU ONCE HAD NOW DEATH MUST BE--

WRONG CHOICE.

CHAM

MAYBE STOPPING YOU WILL PUT ME BACK IN THE GODDESS'S GOOD GRACES.

GIVE ME THAT SWORD!

THE GODDESS YOU HAVE MET?

KKKRRRAKK

ONLY THE BEGINNING YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED.

HE DIES NOW!

DIFFER, I MUST!

NICE GOIN', SLICK. A DEAD TIMESTREAM WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIS LITTLE FRIENDS.

GUESS YOU IMPROVED YOUR ABILITY TO PULL FOLKS FROM DIFFERENT TIME ZONES--

I GET THE WETWARE!

EXCELLENT!

YOU KNOW, THIS HAS GOT TO BE A DIVERSION TO KEEP US AWAY FROM THE POINT OF THIS JOINT

RAD RHYME!

YZUMPH

YOU FIGURED THAT OUT, DID YOU?

ALL BY MYSELF. LOOK, I CAN HOLD OFF THESE TINKERTOYS WHILE YOU PLUG--

--INTO CYBERSPACE AND GET THE SKINNY ON THIS PLACE.

NOW YOU'RE STARTING TO THINK LIKE ME!

NO CHANCE! I JUST KNOW HOW YOU THINK!

NEXT SUCKER?

WHOA! GEEZ, THAT WAS SICKENING!

Running S.C.A.M.P. diversion.

THIS IS LIKE NOTHING WE'VE EVER SWAM THROUGH BEFORE.

LOCATE THE MAIN OPERATING SYSTEM

Main opera

INTERRUPT: Incoming viral protection programs.

WE GOT ANYTHING TO LOSE 'EM?

Negative.

NEGATIVE?

THAT'S NOT THE ANSWER I WANTED!

TRY MASKING US IN A TROJAN HORSE AND IMPLEMENT RETROVIRUS STRAIN 36.

AND TRY LOGIC BOMB COMBINATIONS 12 AND 72.

Suggest reproduction cycle 54.

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.

DUDE'S EXCELLENT! WON'T BREAK!

DEATHLOK, HURRY IT UP! I COULD USE SOME REIN-FORCEMENT!

HE CAN'T EVEN HEAR ME!

Viral programs in retreat.

I WANT 'EM OBLITERATED SO THEY DON'T SNEAK BACK UP ON US!

SPOONGE

OKAY! NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT THIS BABY WAS BUILT FOR!

FWEEEEEEEE

Accessing currently running files.

Investigating time displacement program on subsector?

NO, HIT THE MAIN--

OH MY GOD!

Transmission station programmed to control planetary tidal flow.

Purported use: flooding of seven continents starting with Australia.

SO THAT'S WHAT THE WEATHER REPORT YOU GAVE ME EARLIER WAS FOR. *

HOW SOON DOES IT BECOME ACTIVE?

Active scans reveal transmitter currently broadcasting at 48% efficiency and rising.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN, EXACTLY?

Reports indicate unprecedented tidal wave and tropical storm activity surrounding the coastlines of Australia and China.

Long-range scans intercepting weather satellite transmissions.

WHAT'D YA GET FROM NWS?

NOT ONLY IS THIS WENCH NOT STOPPIN', SHE AIN'T GOT A POINT A' ORIGIN!

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT MUST BE GOING ON OUT THERE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET MY OWN PERSONAL CONCERNS OVER NOT BEING CHOSEN BY THE GODDESS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER GIVING TIMESTREAM MY FULL ATTENTION.

...IT'S NO WONDER SHE HAS FORSAKEN ME..

COMPUTER SHUT THIS DOWN NOW!

Unable to perform designated task through this network.

IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER, DOESN'T IT?

SIEGE! WE AIN'T GOT TIME FOR THESE BOZOS! THIS PLACE HAS GOT TO FALL RIGHT NOW!

OH, NOW YOU COME BACK TO-- UHHHH

KAWLIDA

I'D LOVE TA RETURN THE SUCKERPUNCH...

THROOM!!!

...BUT BUSINESS'S GOTTA COME BEFORE PLEASURE!

WHAT'D YA LEARN, COLLINS?

SHORT VERSION IS THIS PLACE IS USING A TRANSMITTER TO TRY AND FLOOD THE CONTINENT. THEN TIMESTREAM CAN HAVE A CLEAN SLATE TO TAKE OVER.

PRETTY HIGH CONCEPT BATTLE PLAN.

THEY ALL GOT FORCE-FIELDS SO YA COULDN'T KILL 'EM IF YA TRIED!

LOOKS LIKE GOLIATH THERE TOOK CARE OF MOST OF THEM FOR US!

WHOA-- BOGOSITY!

:OOOPS:

CAN'T TAKE THIS THING OUT AT THE CORE! IT'S SHIELDED!

I CAN SEE THAT!

WE CAN'T GET A BREAK ANYWHERE--!

Suggest destruction of transmission platform.

THERE'S A PLAN!

AND LOOK WHO WE FOUND!

STOPPED I CANNOT BE!

YOU CAN'T TAKE US *BOTH* OUT AGAIN!

AGAIN, YOU ARE WRONG!

SHRKKLLL

SIEGE, YOU TAKE OUT THAT TRANSMITTER! I'LL TAKE OUT *TIMESTREAM*!

SAVE ME A PIECE OF-- *ARRRGGHH!*

FLIPPIN' *FORCEFIELDS*! WISH I COULD FIGGER OUT HOW TA *SEE* EM BEFORE THEY *NAIL* ME!

AN *END* TO THE WORLD'S *EVIL* CAN *I* BRING! AN ALLIANCE TO--

I'M *SICK* OF YOUR *MOUTH*-- *ARRGGGH!*

AIN'T NO *BREACH* I CAN'T GET THROUGH!

#$!:">??*@%#@_<<

KKRRRK TULL

AND, I'M SICK OF THIS SWORD!

SHRIK

C'MON! BURN, BABY, BURN!

SHROOMSHROOM

KA-CHOW!

YOU DISAPPEAR, YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU.

FALSE IS YOUR BELIEF!

WE GOTTA FALL INTA RETREAT! THIS SUCKER GOES SUPERNOVA IN FIVE!

OUTSTANDING!

ADMIRABLE, YES! BUT MY POWER YOU CANNOT COMPREHEND.

SHRKKLLL

HOW--

WE GOTTA GO NOW!

BUT--

DOOMED YOU HAVE THIS ZONES PAST, AS WELL AS ITS FUTURE!

RIGHT NOW!

BWA-THOOM

I'M.. SORRY I MISJUDGED YOU

I ASSUMED THE WORST OF YOU WITHOUT JUST CAUSE.

IT'S JUST THAT WE COME FROM TWO SUCH DIFFERENT WORLDS..

IT'S THE SAME WORLD.

WE JUST GOT DIFFERENT WAYS OF DEALIN' WITH IT

HOURS LATER, THE SKIES HAVE CLEARED AND THE TIDES HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL LEVELS.

WONDER WHAT TIMESTREAM MEANT ABOUT OUR PAST AND FUTURE BEING DOOMED?

GOOD QUESTION, SIEGE. MY SCANNERS INDICATE HE TOOK HIS WARRIORS WITH HIM...

...AND THAT CAN'T BE GOOD NEWS.

AND THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO BE DEALT WITH..

Short-range scans indicate cosmic activity of unknown magnitude on collision course--

IT'S A SIGN!

MAYBE THE GODDESS CAME BACK FOR ME!

WHAT THE--?

ACROSS THE GALAXY THE GODDESS'S MESSAGE IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE FORM OF THE SACRED FLAME.

IT IS A FLAME OF ABSOLUTION.

IT IS A FLAME OF DESTRUCTION.

AND IT DEFIES EXPLANATION.

TO BE CONTINUED-- IN THE PAGES OF INFINITY CRUSADES #6

YOU WANTED ME, NOW YOU GOTTA FACE THE MUSIC!

NEXT: THE RETURN OF THE DEMOLISHER

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SANDMAN PALADIN FIN!!! MAN-EATER!!

RELENTLESSLY TRAINED IN MULTIPLE FORMS OF HAND-TO-HAND AND ARMED COMBAT, SILVER SABLE WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE COMMAND OF HER FATHER'S PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER UNIT, THE WILD PACK. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL, SHE HAS SINCE TRANSFORMED THEM INTO THE ULTIMATE MERCENARY COMBAT FORCE, NOW THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF HER BELOVED HOMELAND, SYMKARIA.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . SILVER SABLE AND THE WILD PACK

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STEALIN' FOOD FROM STARVIN FOLKS AIN'T RIGHT.
DROP THOSE GUNS, BOYS, YOU AIN'T TAKIN' ANYTHING WHILE THE INTRUDERS ARE ON THE SCENE!
I GET TO HIT!
RHOOAR!

NAW, KEEP THE GUNS, IT'S BEEN A LONG TRIP AND I COULD USE A LITTLE WORKOUT!
AH'M SHORE WE COULDA DONE 'EM UP OURSELVES, SUGAH.
KEEP YOUR ROCKET ON THE LAUNCH PAD, FARMBOY.
POWELL, CRIPPLER-- SILENCE.
CRUSADERS AGAINST HUNGER
GREGORY WRIGHT WRITER
STEVEN BUTLER PENCILER
PAM EKLUND INKER
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
JOE ROSAS COLORIST
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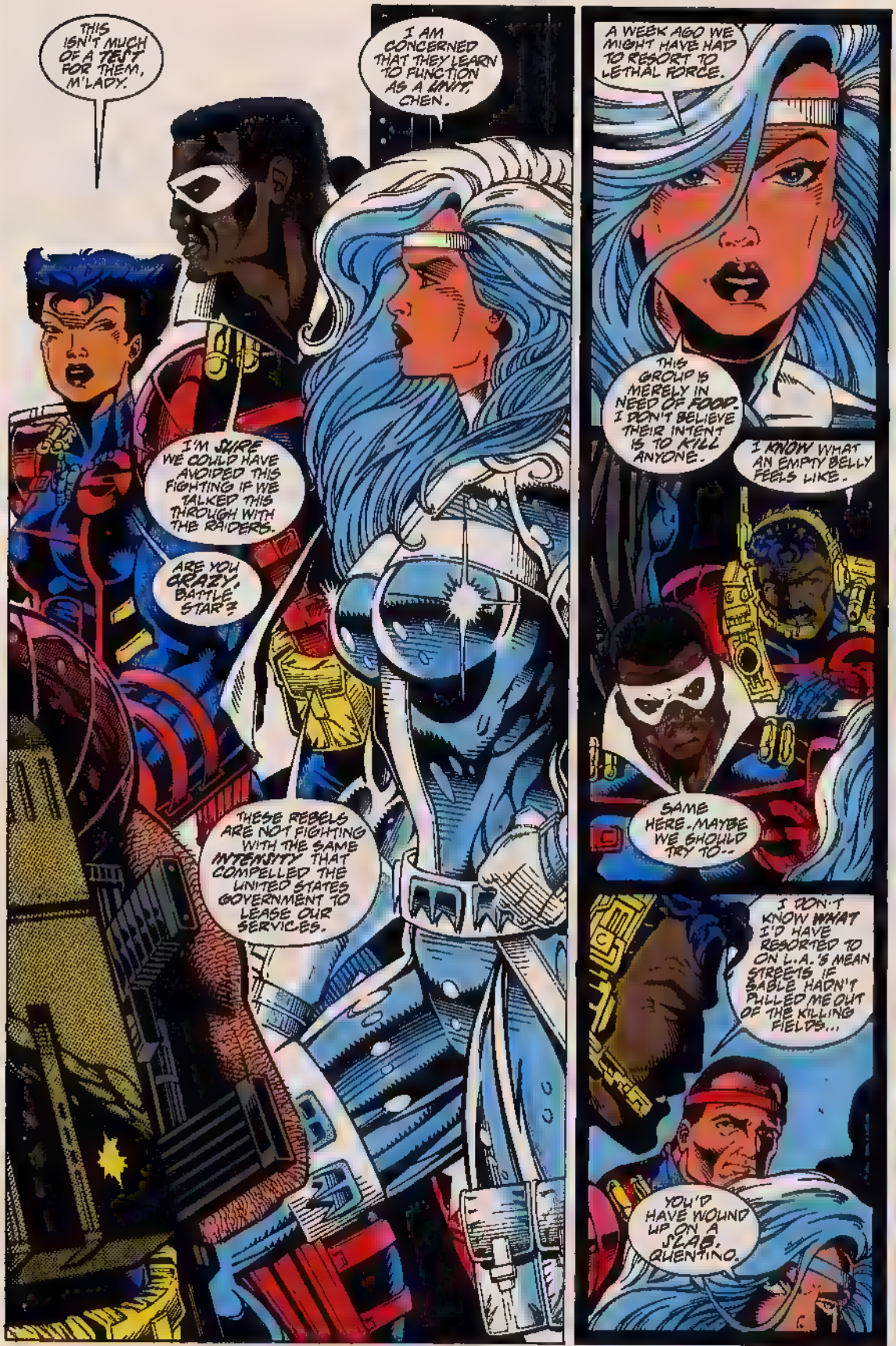
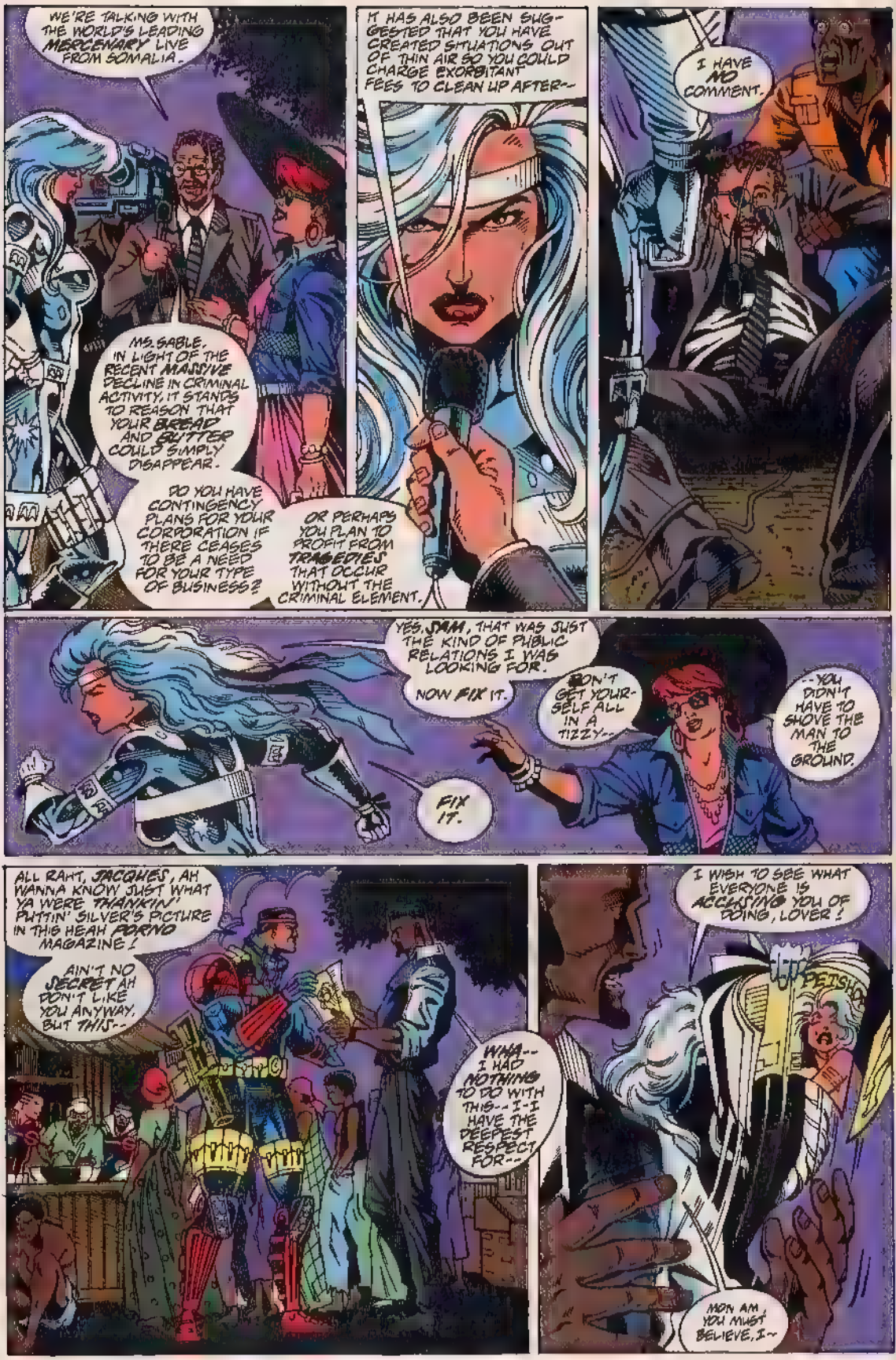
REMEMBER, NO CASUALTIES!
I'M KINDA SURPRISED THERE'S RESISTANCE AT ALL SINCE CRIME SEEMS TO HAVE PRETTY MUCH COME TO A STANDSTILL LATELY...
DON'T BE A SAP, SANDMAN. THESE ARE NOT CRIMINALS. THEY'RE STARVING AND DESPERATE.
<THIS IS JUST A STUN GUN, BUDDY. I'M PALADIN. DON'T FORGET THE NAME.>
HAVING FUN, FINZ
FZAP
TOO EASY.
RHOOAR! I KNOW WHAT HUNGER IS LIKE. AND MAN-EATER IS NOT A MERE NICK NAME!


THIS ISN'T MUCH OF A TEST FOR THEM, M'LADY.
I AM CONCERNED THAT THEY LEARN TO FUNCTION AS A UNIT, CHEN.
I'M SURE WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED THIS FIGHTING IF WE TALKED THIS THROUGH WITH THE RAIDERS.
ARE YOU CRAZY, BATTLE-STAR?
THESE REBELS ARE NOT FIGHTING WITH THE SAME INTENSITY THAT COMPELLED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO LEASE OUR SERVICES.
A WEEK AGO WE MIGHT HAVE HAD TO RESORT TO LETHAL FORCE.
THIS GROUP IS MERELY IN NEED OF FOOD. I DON'T BELIEVE THEIR INTENT IS TO KILL ANYONE.
I KNOW WHAT AN EMPTY BELLY FEELS LIKE.
SAME HERE. MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TO--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D HAVE RESORTED TO ON L.A.'S MEAN STREETS IF SABLE HADN'T PULLED ME OUT OF THE KILLING FIELDS...
YOU'D HAVE WOUND UP ON A SLAB, QUENTINO.

YOU ARE GOING NOWHERE.
IEEEE!
JUST RELAX, BOYS! NO ONE'S GONNA HURT YA!
WE JUST WANNA MAKE SURE THAT FEELIN'S MUTUAL!
HA! I LAUGH AT BULLETS!
I WIN.
I LIKE TO WIN.
AND THAT TAKES CARE OF 'EM ALL.
FIN, HELP ME CARRY SOME OF THESE LOSERS.
A NEW RECORD! TWENTY-THREE BOGIES DOWN IN FORTY-SIX SECONDS!
NICE WORK, INTRUDERS.
SOME APPLAUSE, PLEASE.
I WANT TO HIT SOME MORE.
YOUR INTRUDERS HAVE PERFORMED WELL TOGETHER, SANDMAN. AS ORDERED, NO CASUALTIES--
I LIKE TO HIT.
GET THAT BOY A VOCABULARY!

NEARBY, IN THE BATTLE-SCARRED PORTION OF THE CITY...
<DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY THIS RECENT CALM THAT HAS ENVELOPED THE WORLD.>
<IT IS YET ANOTHER TRICK TO LULL OUR KIND INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.>
<THE TIME IS NOW TO RECLAIM OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD! WE MUST FORCE THE AGGRESSIVE UNITED STATES MILITARY FROM THIS COUNTRY--->
<--AND CLAIM IT FOR THE BIO-GENES!>
<LEECHER IS RIGHT!>
<IT ISN'T OUR RIGHT TO TAKE LIVES AS YOU WOULD SEE FIT!>
<A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN-->
<MALI NEEDS REAFFIRMATION OF OUR CAUSE.>
<THIS PSYCHIC DISTURBANCE FELT WORLD-WIDE HAS GIVEN ALL SECOND THOUGHTS LIGHTBRIGHT.>
<FORTUNATELY, I HAVE BEEN EMPOWERED TO ALTER THOSE PSYCHIC ENERGIES!>
<DEATH TO THE U.S. INVADERS!>


WE'RE TALKING WITH THE WORLD'S LEADING MERCENARY LIVE FROM SOMALIA.
MS. SABLE, IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT MASSIVE DECLINE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, IT STANDS TO REASON THAT YOUR BREAD AND BUTTER COULD SIMPLY DISAPPEAR.
DO YOU HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR YOUR CORPORATION IF THERE CEASES TO BE A NEED FOR YOUR TYPE OF BUSINESS?
OR PERHAPS YOU PLAN TO PROFIT FROM "TRAGEDIES" THAT OCCUR WITHOUT THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT.
IT HAS ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT YOU HAVE CREATED SITUATIONS OUT OF THIN AIR SO YOU COULD CHARGE EXORBITANT FEES TO CLEAN UP AFTER--
I HAVE NO COMMENT.
YES, JAM, THAT WAS JUST THE KIND OF PUBLIC RELATIONS I WAS LOOKING FOR.
NOW FIX IT.
DON'T GET YOURSELF ALL IN A TIZZY--
--YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOVE THE MAN TO THE GROUND.
FIX IT.
ALL RAHT, JACQUES, AH WANNA KNOW JUST WHAT YA WERE THANKIN' PUTTIN' SILVER'S PICTURE IN THIS HEAH PORNO MAGAZINE!
AIN'T NO SECRET AH DON'T LIKE YOU ANYWAY, BUT THIS--
WAAA-- I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS-- I-I HAVE THE DEEPEST RESPECT FOR--
I WISH TO SEE WHAT EVERYONE IS ACCUSING YOU OF DOING, LOVER!
FETISH
MON AM, YOU MUST BELIEVE, I--

AAAAHH!
I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO PUBLICLY HUMILIATED, JACQUES!
MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEN HAVE BEEN FAR FROM CONVENTIONAL, BUT YOU HAVE VIOLATED ME IN A WAY I NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE.
I DO NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS AT THIS POINT. I SUGGEST YOU DISAPPEAR.
BUT I DID NOT--
QUENTINO--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU HAVE NOT LOOKED WELL --
:KOFF-KOFF: :KOFF: JUST A :KOFF: COLD. PROBABLY FROM ALL THESE CLIMATE CHANGES.
I JUST NEED AN ANTIBIOTIC.
EVERY COUGH SCARES ME. IT MIGHT NOT BE JUST A COLD... I CAN'T KEEP HIDING IT--
--KEEP WANTING, NEEDING THE HEROIN. GOTTA STAY CLEAN--
WHAT NEWS DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
I WAS ON MY WAY TO FIND YOU--
-- I'VE MONITORED A DISTRESS SIGNAL COMING FROM THE MARINE COMPOUND TEN MILES OUT--
SOMETHING NON-MILITARY IN NATURE'S PLAYING HAVOC WITH THE TROOPS--
THEN WE MOVE OUT ALL COMBAT PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY!

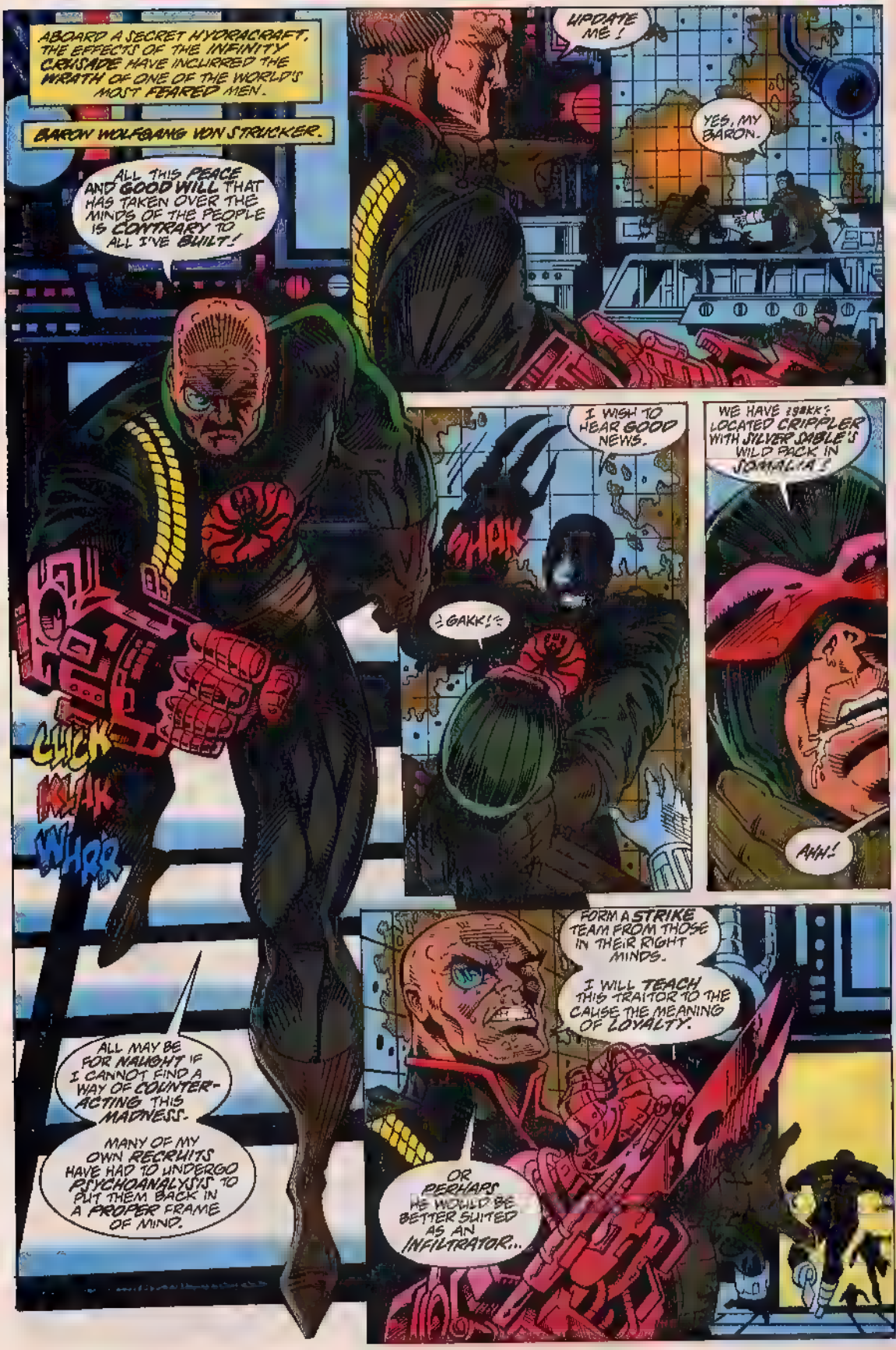
FAR AWAY ACROSS THE OCEAN, IN AN EXPENSIVE NEW YORK CITY PENTHOUSE, THE FOREIGNER GLOATS OVER RECENT TRANSACTIONS.
THE ENLIGHTENMENT THAT HAS SWEPT THE PLANET, SHOWERING GOOD WILL AMONG ITS PEOPLE, HAS HAD A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON THE BUSINESS LIFE OF THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST ASSASSIN.
NOBODY WANTS ANYBODY ELSE DEAD.
BAD BUSINESS FOR AN ASSASSIN.
NO DOUBT HE'LL BE WORRYING HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT, WON'T HE?
AH, MY DEAR EX-WIFE, THIS IMPOSTOR DOES NOT DO YOUR LOVELY CURVES JUSTICE!
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SHAN'T BE ENOUGH TO REMOVE HIM FROM YOUR ROMANTIC LIFE FOR LONG.
CLEVER OF ME TO RIG THIS STUNT WITH THOSE MODELING SHOTS YOU DID.
EVEN MORE CLEVER THAT THIS JACQUES PERSON YOU'VE BEEN SEEING TOOK THE BLAME.
THUNK
THERE MUST BE SKELETONS IN HIS CLOSET TO BE BROUGHT OUT.
SOMEHOW, I JUST DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO KILL HIM...

BACK IN SOMALIA AN UNUSUAL BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT
THOSE WHO WOULD ORDINARILY NOT QUESTION ATTACK ORDERS ARE NOW DISPLAYING PACIFISM.
IT IS THE WILL OF A SO-NAMED GODDESS THAT IS BRINGING ABOUT A SLOW PEACE TO THE EARTH.
IT IS A PEACE THAT IS UNNATURAL.
WILD PACK, CONTAIN THE MUTANT SQUAD BEFORE THEY REACH THE BREACH!
UHH! CAN'T SEE! SILVER, DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD AVOID ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE?
SEEMS TO BE A PROBLEM WITH THE U.S. FORCES, SABLE. SOME ARE JUST LAYING DOWN THEIR ARMS..

THANKS FOR THE BARRICADE, SANDMAN.
MAYBE I COULD CONTAIN EVERYONE SO WE CAN SETTLE THIS--
YOU WILL BEND TO MY WILL! THIS IS NOT YOUR FIGHT!
A YOUNG GIRL!
DO NOT TRUST--
UHNG!
PIFT
THE POISON IS FAST, BUT NOT DEADLY.
THWK
WE ONLY WISH YOU OUT OF THE FIGHT.
WE... MUST.. LANCE THE AREA.. AND SUCK.. OUT THE POISON

CRIPPLER, POWELL, SEE IF YOU CAN GET TO THE INJURED MARINES!
BIFF! BAM!
YES MA'AM. IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE.
NOW CRIPPLER'S NOT ACTING LIKE HIMSELF. IT MUST BE SOME FORM OF MIND CONTROL.
--BECAUSE I WISH IT.
HOPEFULLY TAKING THIS ONE OUT WILL GET MY WILD PACK AND THE INTRUDERS BACK TO NORMAL.
I AM NOT SO WEAK-MINDED THAT YOU CAN CONTROL ME.
I HAD NOT PLANNED TO BECOME EMBROILED IN THIS COUNTRY'S POLITICS--
YOU MUST JOIN OUR CAUSE, MY DEAR--
I CAN FEEL MYSELF WANTING TO GO ALONG...
--YET I FEEL ODDLY COMPELLED TO TRY AND ACT THE ROLE OF PEACE-KEEPER.

(YOU CANNOT HARM A MAN WHO CAN ALTER HIS FORM AT WILL!)
SMAP
(I'M NOT TRYING TO HURT YOU, JUST STUN YOU.)
ALLOW ME. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY ONE OF MY LATEST SONIC DISRUPTORS.
SHREEE
WHOA!
HIT HIM NOW, WHILE HE'S SOLID.
VLK
OW! GUY'S HARD AS STEEL!
STILL, WE HAVE A KNOCKOUT IN THE FIRST ROUND!
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? KILLING EACH OTHER WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!
WE CAN WORK IT OUT!
WHEN DID YOU BECOME AN AMBASSADOR OF GOOD WILL?
HE'S RIGHT!
WE CAN WORK THIS OUT!
(LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS. LET'S BEGIN NEGOTIATING.)
...YES.



ABOARD A SECRET HYDRACRAFT, THE EFFECTS OF THE INFINITY CRUSADE HAVE INCURRED THE WRATH OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FEARED MEN.

BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER.

ALL THIS PEACE AND GOOD WILL THAT HAS TAKEN OVER THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE IS CONTRARY TO ALL I'VE BUILT!

CLICK

KLAK

WHRR

ALL MAY BE FOR NAUGHT IF I CANNOT FIND A WAY OF COUNTER-ACTING THIS MADNESS.

MANY OF MY OWN RECRUITS HAVE HAD TO UNDERGO PSYCHOANALYSIS TO PUT THEM BACK IN A PROPER FRAME OF MIND.

UPDATE ME!

YES, MY BARON.

I WISH TO HEAR GOOD NEWS.

SHAK

GAKK!

WE HAVE GAKK LOCATED CRIPPLER WITH SILVER SABLE'S WILD PACK IN SOMALIA!

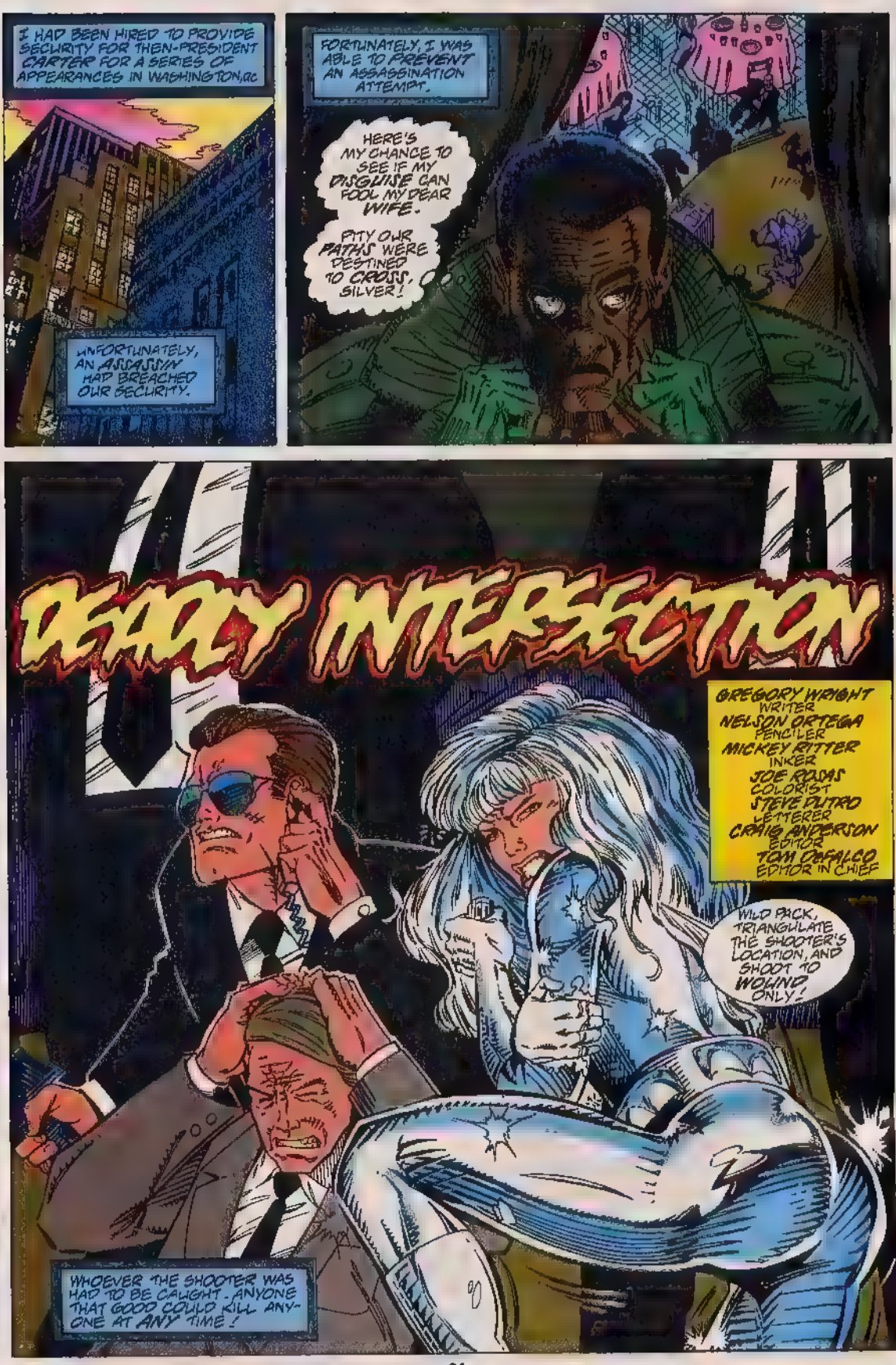
AHH!

FORM A STRIKE TEAM FROM THOSE IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS.

I WILL TEACH THIS TRAITOR TO THE CAUSE THE MEANING OF LOYALTY.

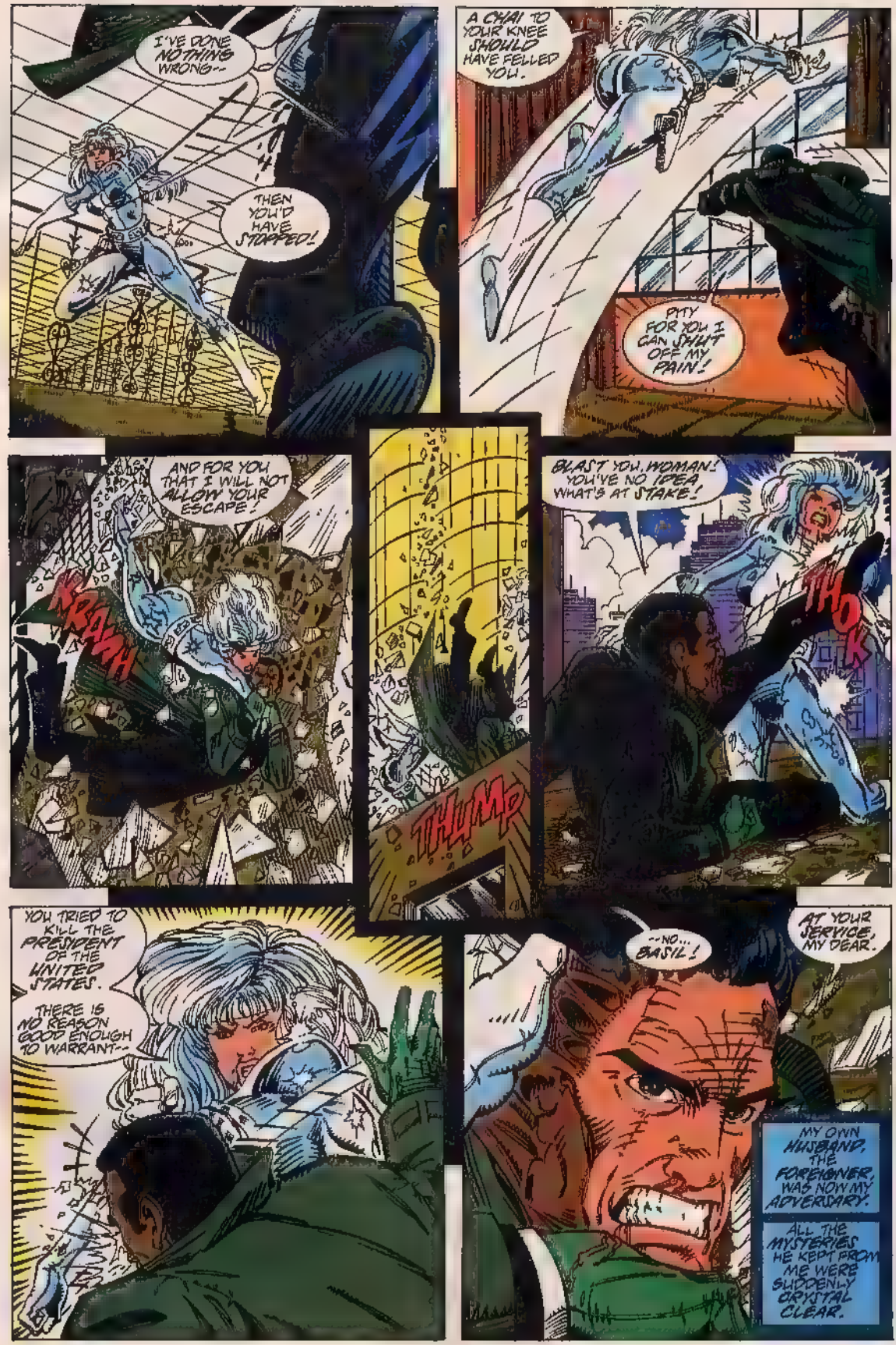
OR PERHAPS HE WOULD BE BETTER SUITED AS AN INFILTRATOR...

SOON IN SOMALIA, THE BATTLE SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO AN ANTICLIMACTIC END.
I DON'T GET IT.
THE FIGHTING HAS ENDED WITHOUT--
I THINK WE HAVE SOME TROUBLE--
--MY OLD BOSS IS HERE, AND HE LOOKS KINDA MAD...
MAYBE HE WANTS YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR QUITTING.
YEAH. MAYBE THAT'S IT.
THE RECENT PEACE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS OUTLASTED ITS WELCOME. I CLAIM IT NOW IN THE NAME OF HYDRA FOR THE SOUTHERN WARLORDS.
I HAVE CONVINCED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT IF NECESSARY.
ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS?
GUESS HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE.
I WAS BEING SARCASTIC!
NEXT: NICK FURY AND SHIELD! BARON VON STRUCKER! THE INTRUDERS! THE BIO-GENES! THE MARINES! AND OH, YEAH, SILVER SABLE!


I HAD BEEN HIRED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THEN-PRESIDENT CARTER FOR A SERIES OF APPEARANCES IN WASHINGTON, DC
UNFORTUNATELY, AN ASSASSIN HAD BREACHED OUR SECURITY.
FORTUNATELY, I WAS ABLE TO PREVENT AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
HERE'S MY CHANCE TO SEE IF MY DISGUISE CAN FOOL MY DEAR WIFE.
PITY OUR PATHS WERE DESTINED TO CROSS, SILVER!
DEADLY INTERSECTION
GREGORY WRIGHT WRITER
NELSON ORTEGA PENCILER
MICKEY RITTER INKER
JOE ROJAS COLORIST
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
WILD BACK, TRIANGULATE THE SHOOTER'S LOCATION, AND SHOOT TO WOUND ONLY!
WHOEVER THE SHOOTER WAS HAD TO BE CAUGHT. ANYONE THAT GOOD COULD KILL ANYONE AT ANY TIME!

WE GOT HIM ISOLATED!
CHOOM
CHUM
TIME TO BE GOING!
AHRR! BULLET GRAZED MY LEG!
A DESERVED PUNISHMENT FOR LINGERING TO SEE THAT SILVER IS NOT MORTALLY INJURED.
SINCE NO ONE HAS SEEN ME, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BLEND INTO THE CROWD.
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, STAY WHERE YOU ARE.
WE CANNOT ALLOW ANYONE OUT OF THE BUILDING.
WE DON'T WANT TO STAY IN HERE WITH THAT SNIPER!
FOR ALL WE KNOW, YOU ARE THE SNIPER, PAL!

IF I REMAIN, I MAY BE DIS-COVERED.
I MAY, PERCHANCE, BE ABLE TO SLIP OUT A WINDOW WHILE THE CROWD RUSHING AROUND COVERS MY EXIT.
I TOLD YOU PEOPLE TO REMAIN WHERE YOU WERE!
AT THE TIME, MY MIND REELED AS TO JUST HOW THE SHOOTER WAS TO BE LOCATED.
I HAD PREPARED TO STOP AN ASSASSIN FROM GETTING IN, NOT STOP ONE FROM ESCAPING.
I WOULD NEVER AGAIN FAIL TO PREPARE FOR ALL CONTINGENCIES.
IT ISN'T SAFE TO RUN ABOUT!
PURE LUCK ENABLED ME TO PULL THE NEEDLE FROM THE HAYSTACK.
BLOOD!
HE'S BEEN SHOT-- PRESUMABLY BY MY WILD PACK!
YOU IN THE TRENCH COAT! STOP RIGHT THERE OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!


I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG--
THEN YOU'D HAVE STOPPED!
A CHAI TO YOUR KNEE SHOULD HAVE FELLED YOU.
PITY FOR YOU I CAN SHUT OFF MY PAIN!
AND FOR YOU THAT I WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR ESCAPE!
KRAAH
THUMP
BLAST YOU, WOMAN! YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT'S AT STAKE!
THOK
YOU TRIED TO KILL THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
THERE IS NO REASON GOOD ENOUGH TO WARRANT--
--NO... BASIL!
AT YOUR SERVICE, MY DEAR.
MY OWN HUSBAND, THE FOREIGNER, WAS NOW MY ADVERSARY.
ALL THE MYSTERIES HE KEPT FROM ME WERE SUDDENLY CRYSTAL CLEAR.

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU'VE HIDDEN THIS PART OF YOU FROM ME!
TELL ME WHY, BASIL, OR I MAY JUST KILL YOU RIGHT HERE!
THAT WOULD BE TELLING.
I SUPPOSE THIS MUCKS UP OUR RELATIONSHIP, EH?
YOU KNOW I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO TAKE ME IN, MY DEAR.
YOU'VE SEEN TO IT THAT MY JOB WAS NOT COMPLETED. LET IT BE SATISFACTION ENOUGH.
BE SEEING YOU, MY DEAR.
WHERE--?
AS IT TURNS OUT, THE FOREIGNER HAD DEVELOPED A HYPER-HYPNOTIC POWER OF SUGGESTION THAT WOULD BLANK OUT HIS VICTIM LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO ESCAPE.
ANOTHER LITTLE SECRET HE HAD HIDDEN FROM ME.
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, FOREIGNER!
I RECEIVED DIVORCE PAPERS FROM HIM A FEW WEEKS LATER ALONG WITH A CHALLENGE TO TRY TO KILL HIM BEFORE HE COULD KILL ME.
IT'S A GAME WE'VE PLAYED MANY TIMES SINCE.
THOUGH HE'S GIVEN ME REASON TO HATE HIM MORE THAN ANY OTHER, SOMEHOW THE GAME HAS REMAINED MERELY THAT.
A PERVERSE GAME
TO BE CONTINUED

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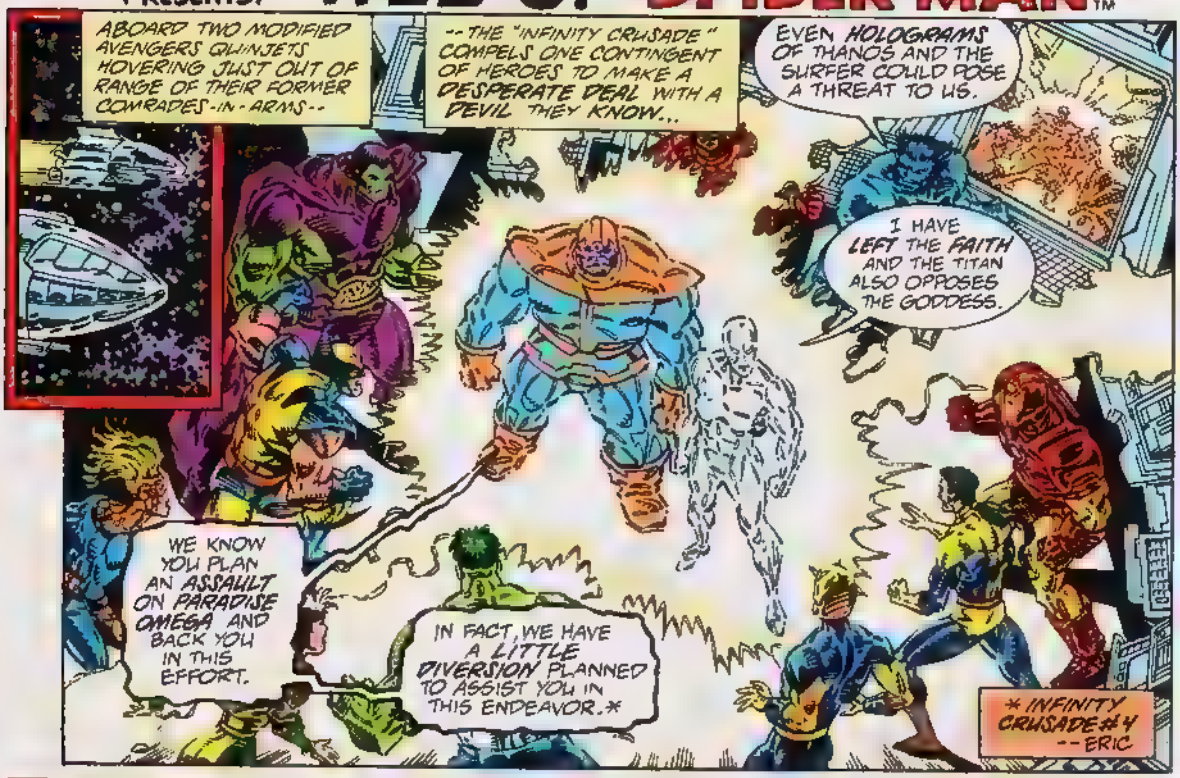
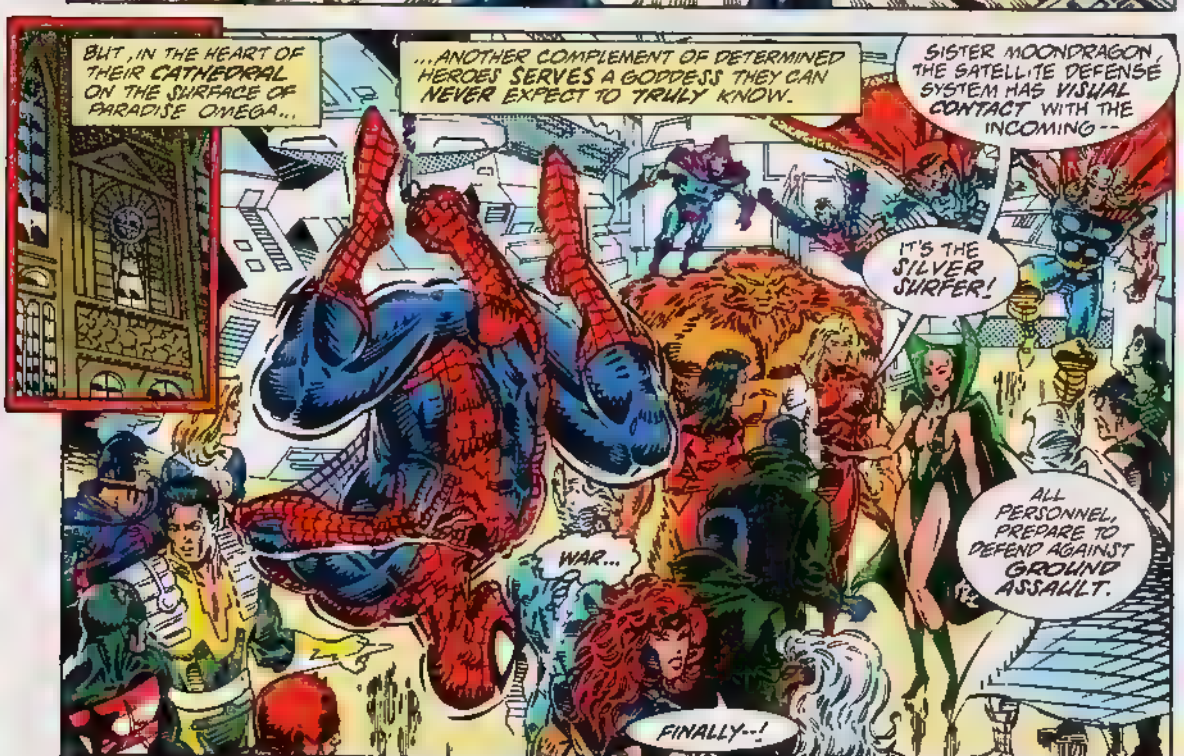
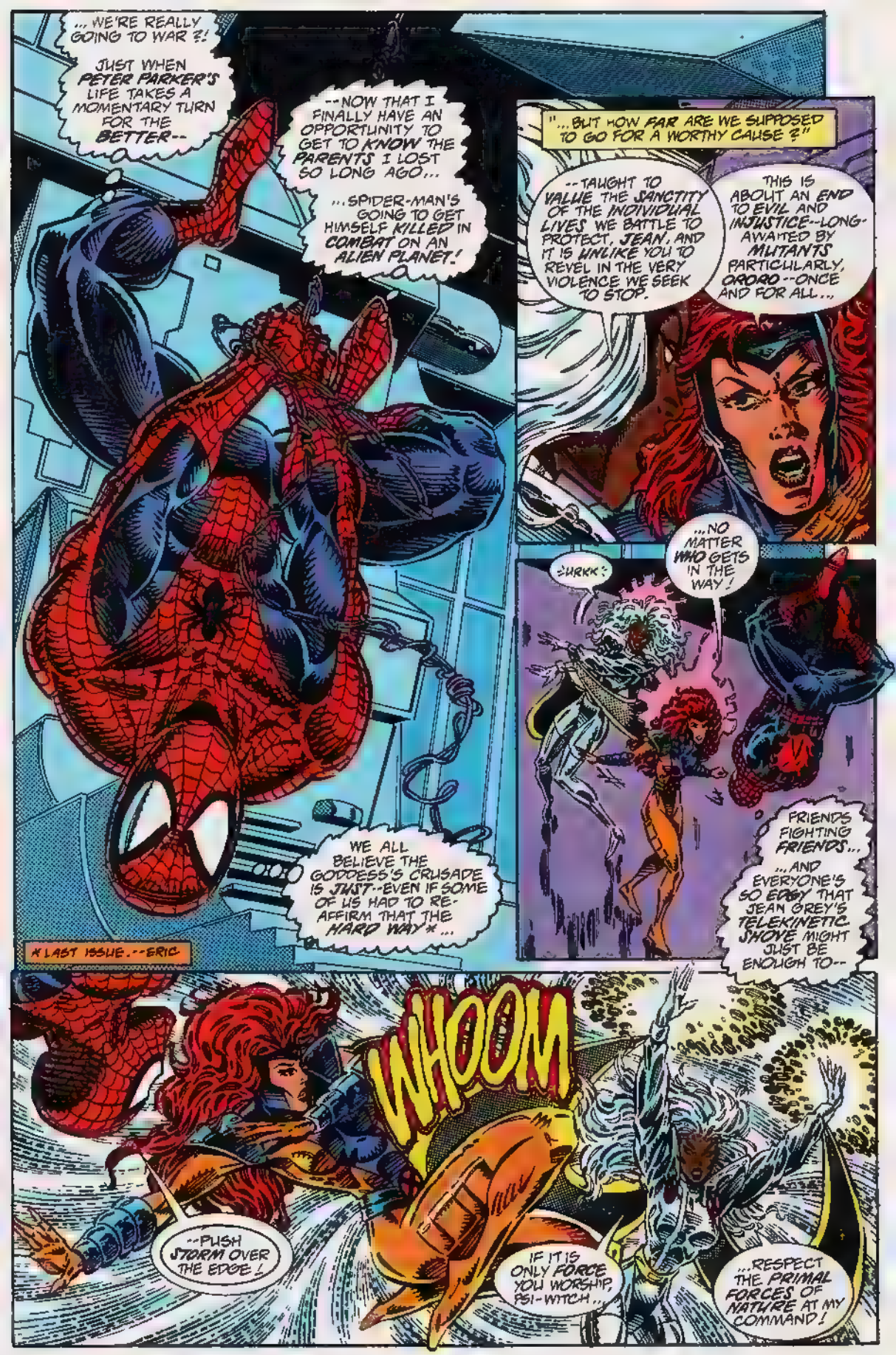
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

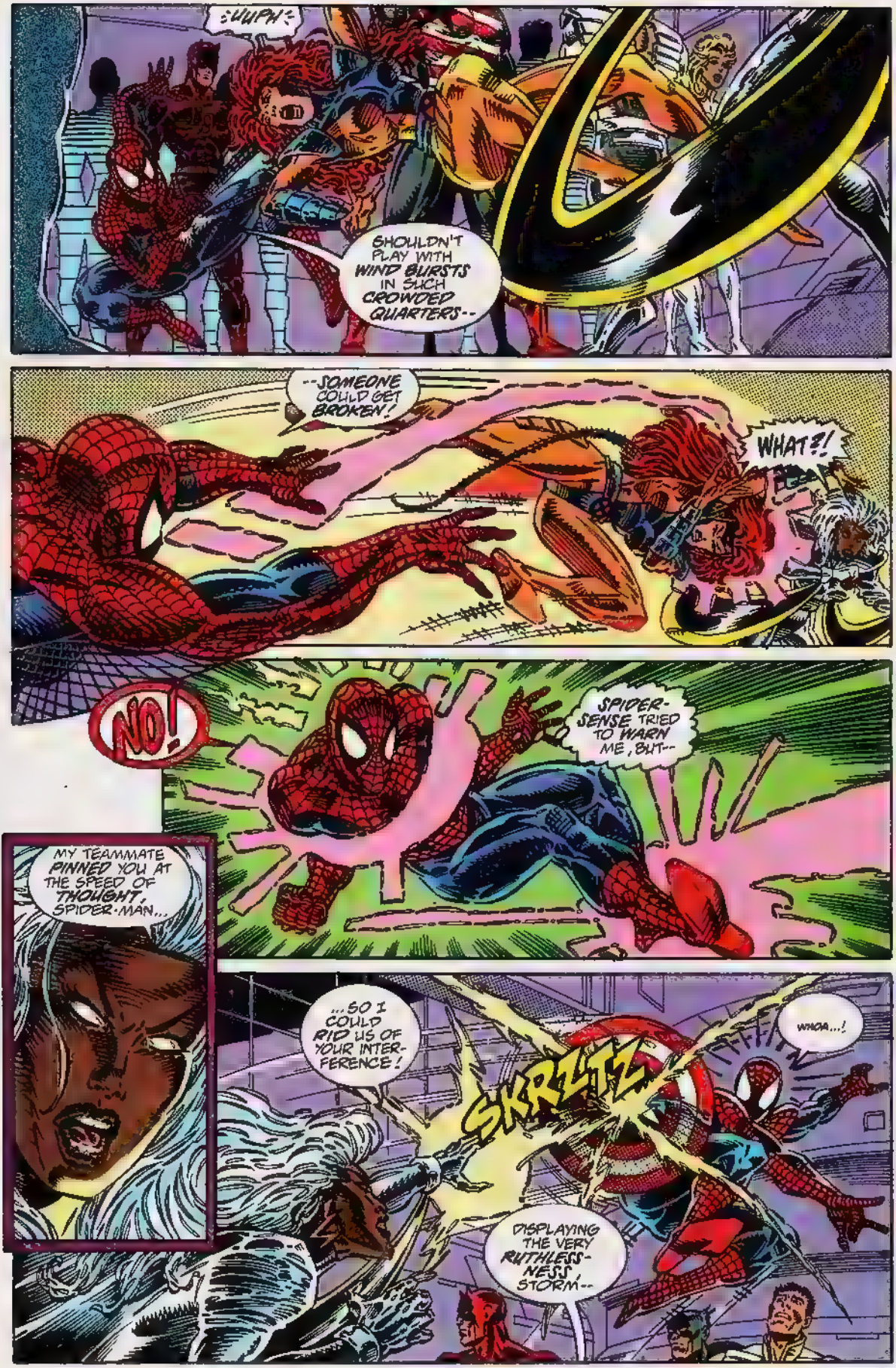
STAN LEE PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™


ABOARD TWO MODIFIED AVENGERS QUINJETS HOVERING JUST OUT OF RANGE OF THEIR FORMER COMRADES--IN-ARMS--
--THE "INFINITY CRUSADE" COMPELS ONE CONTINGENT OF HEROES TO MAKE A DESPERATE DEAL WITH A DEVIL THEY KNOW...
EVEN HOLOGRAMS OF THANOS AND THE SURFER COULD POSE A THREAT TO US.
I HAVE LEFT THE FAITH AND THE TITAN ALSO OPPOSES THE GODDESS.
WE KNOW YOU PLAN AN ASSAULT ON PARADISE OMEGA AND BACK YOU IN THIS EFFORT.
IN FACT, WE HAVE A LITTLE DIVERSION PLANNED TO ASSIST YOU IN THIS ENDEAVOR.*
* INFINITY CRUSADE #4 --ERIC

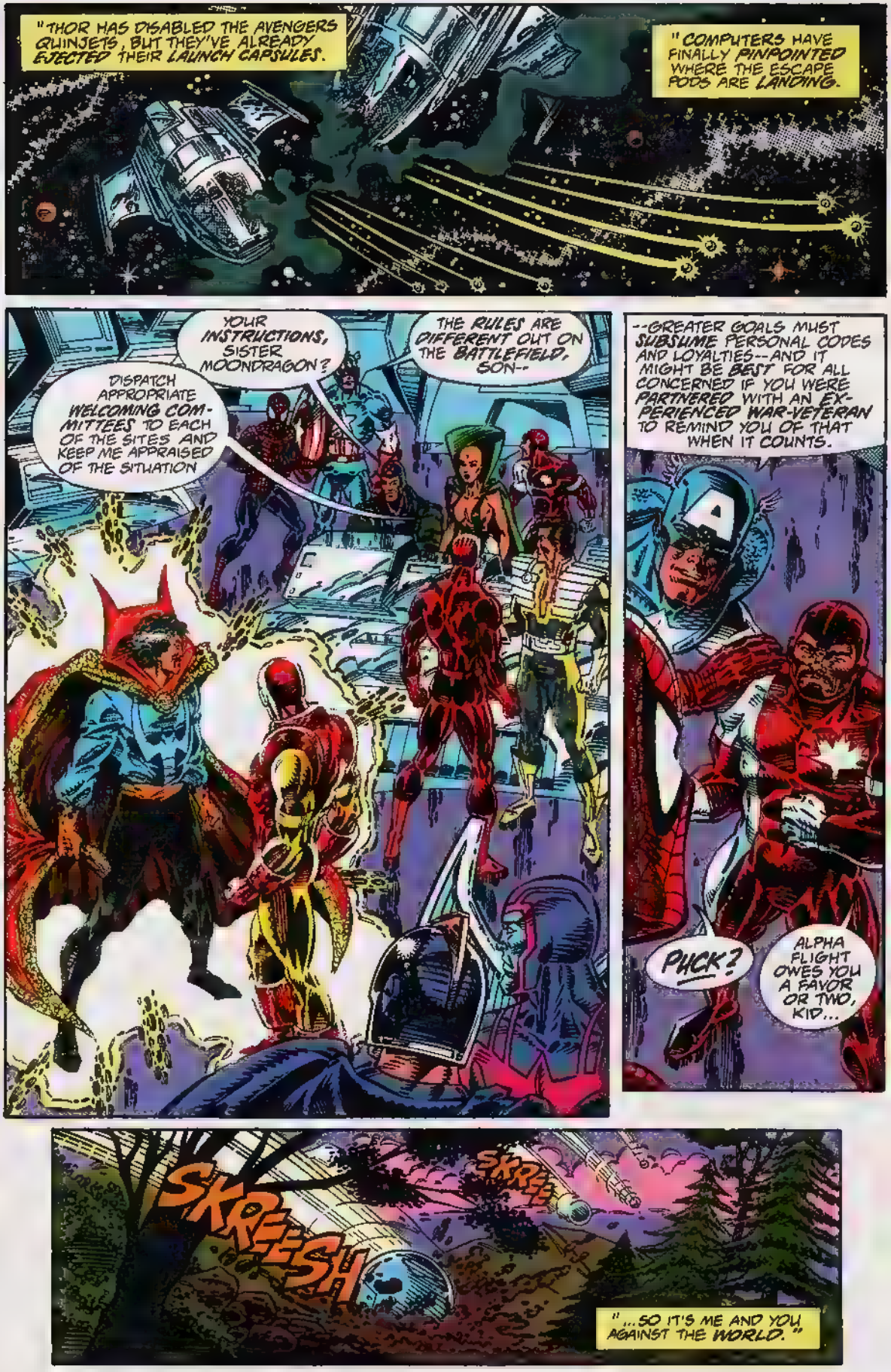

BUT, IN THE HEART OF THEIR CATHEDRAL ON THE SURFACE OF PARADISE OMEGA...
...ANOTHER COMPLEMENT OF DETERMINED HEROES SERVES A GODDESS THEY CAN NEVER EXPECT TO TRULY KNOW.
SISTER MOONDRAGON, THE SATELLITE DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE INCOMING--
IT'S THE SILVER SURFER!
ALL PERSONNEL, PREPARE TO DEFEND AGAINST GROUND ASSAULT.
WAR...
FINALLY--!

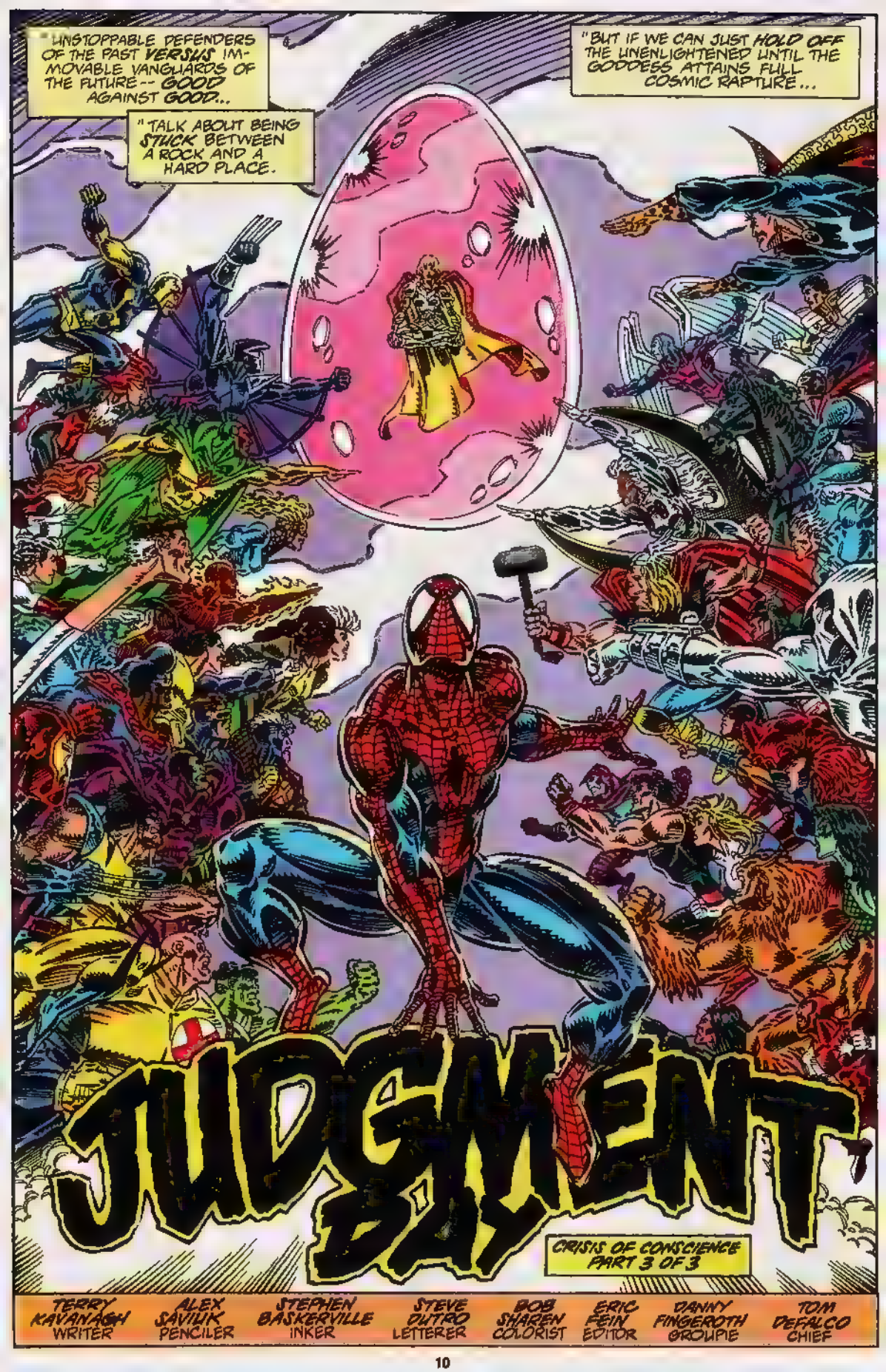
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN Vol. 1, No. 106, November, 1993. , SSN #0887 9702, Published by MARVEL COMICS Terry Stewart, President Stan Lee, Publisher Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, N Y 10016 **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, inc. All rights reserved Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $15.00 U.S. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST GST #R127032852 Foreign $27.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed nor in a mutilated condition. WEB OF SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.**


...WE'RE REALLY GOING TO WAR?!
JUST WHEN PETER PARKER'S LIFE TAKES A MOMENTARY TURN FOR THE BETTER--
--NOW THAT I FINALLY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW THE PARENTS I LOST SO LONG AGO...
...SPIDER-MAN'S GOING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED IN COMBAT ON AN ALIEN PLANET!
WE ALL BELIEVE THE GODDESS'S CRUSADE IS JUST--EVEN IF SOME OF US HAD TO RE-AFFIRM THAT THE HARD WAY*...
*LAST ISSUE.--ERIC
"...BUT HOW FAR ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO FOR A WORTHY CAUSE?"
--TAUGHT TO VALUE THE SANCTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL LIVES WE BATTLE TO PROTECT, JEAN, AND IT IS UNLIKE YOU TO REVEL IN THE VERY VIOLENCE WE SEEK TO STOP.
THIS IS ABOUT AN END TO EVIL AND INJUSTICE--LONG-AWAITED BY MUTANTS PARTICULARLY, ORORO--ONCE AND FOR ALL...
...NO MATTER WHO GETS IN THE WAY!
:URKK:
FRIENDS FIGHTING FRIENDS...
...AND EVERYONE'S SO EDGY THAT JEAN GREY'S TELEKINETIC SHOVE MIGHT JUST BE ENOUGH TO--
WHOOM
--PUSH STORM OVER THE EDGE!
IF IT IS ONLY FORCE YOU WORSHIP, PSI-WITCH...
...RESPECT THE PRIMAL FORCES OF NATURE AT MY COMMAND!


SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH WIND BURSTS IN SUCH CROWDED QUARTERS--
--SOMEONE COULD GET BROKEN!
WHAT?!
NO!
SPIDER-SENSE TRIED TO WARN ME, BUT--
MY TEAMMATE PINNED YOU AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, SPIDER-MAN...
...SO I COULD RID US OF YOUR INTER-FERENCE!
SKRLTZ
WHOA...!
DISPLAYING THE VERY RUTHLESS-NESS STORM--

--DESPITE YOUR PROTESTS TO THE CONTRARY-- THAT MS. GREY OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO PROVOKE.
YOU...?!
CAPTAIN AMERICA?!
BUT LET'S SAVE IT FOR THE ENEMY, PEOPLE.
MY HERO! IT'S AMAZING THE WAY HIS PRESENCE CALMED THEM DOWN...
...WHILE MY INTERVENTION ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE.
MAYBE EVERY ONE OF US HAS TO GO THROUGH OUR OWN CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE-- EVEN IF IT TAKES A HELPFUL TELEPATHIC NUDGE FROM THE EVER-PRESENT MOONDRAGON--
--AND WE EACH PLAY OUR PART IN THIS VERY PUBLIC DISPLAY.
WE'RE ALL COMMITTED TO THE SAME NOBLE CAUSE, CAP... BUT WE--I--CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO MURDER OUR FRIENDS IN COLD BLOOD.
THEIR UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON PARADISE OMEGA IS CLEARLY AN ACT OF WAR, SPIDER-MAN...
...AND PEOPLE DIE IN WARS.


"THOR HAS DISABLED THE AVENGERS QUINJETS, BUT THEY'VE ALREADY EJECTED THEIR LAUNCH CAPSULES.
"COMPUTERS HAVE FINALLY PINPOINTED WHERE THE ESCAPE PODS ARE LANDING.
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, SISTER MOONDRAGON?
THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, SON--
DISPATCH APPROPRIATE WELCOMING COMMITTEES TO EACH OF THE SITES AND KEEP ME APPRAISED OF THE SITUATION
--GREATER GOALS MUST SUBSUME PERSONAL CODES AND LOYALTIES--AND IT MIGHT BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF YOU WERE PARTNERED WITH AN EXPERIENCED WAR-VETERAN TO REMIND YOU OF THAT WHEN IT COUNTS.
PUCK?
ALPHA FLIGHT OWES YOU A FAVOR OR TWO, KID...
SKREESH
SKREESH
"...SO IT'S ME AND YOU AGAINST THE WORLD."


"UNSTOPPABLE DEFENDERS OF THE PAST VERSUS IMMOVABLE VANGUARDS OF THE FUTURE -- GOOD AGAINST GOOD...
"TALK ABOUT BEING STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE.
"BUT IF WE CAN JUST HOLD OFF THE UNENLIGHTENED UNTIL THE GODDESS ATTAINS FULL COSMIC RAPTURE...
JUDGMENT DAY
CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE PART 3 OF 3
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK PENCILER
STEPHEN BASKERVILLE INKER
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
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DANNY FINGEROTH GROUPIE
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

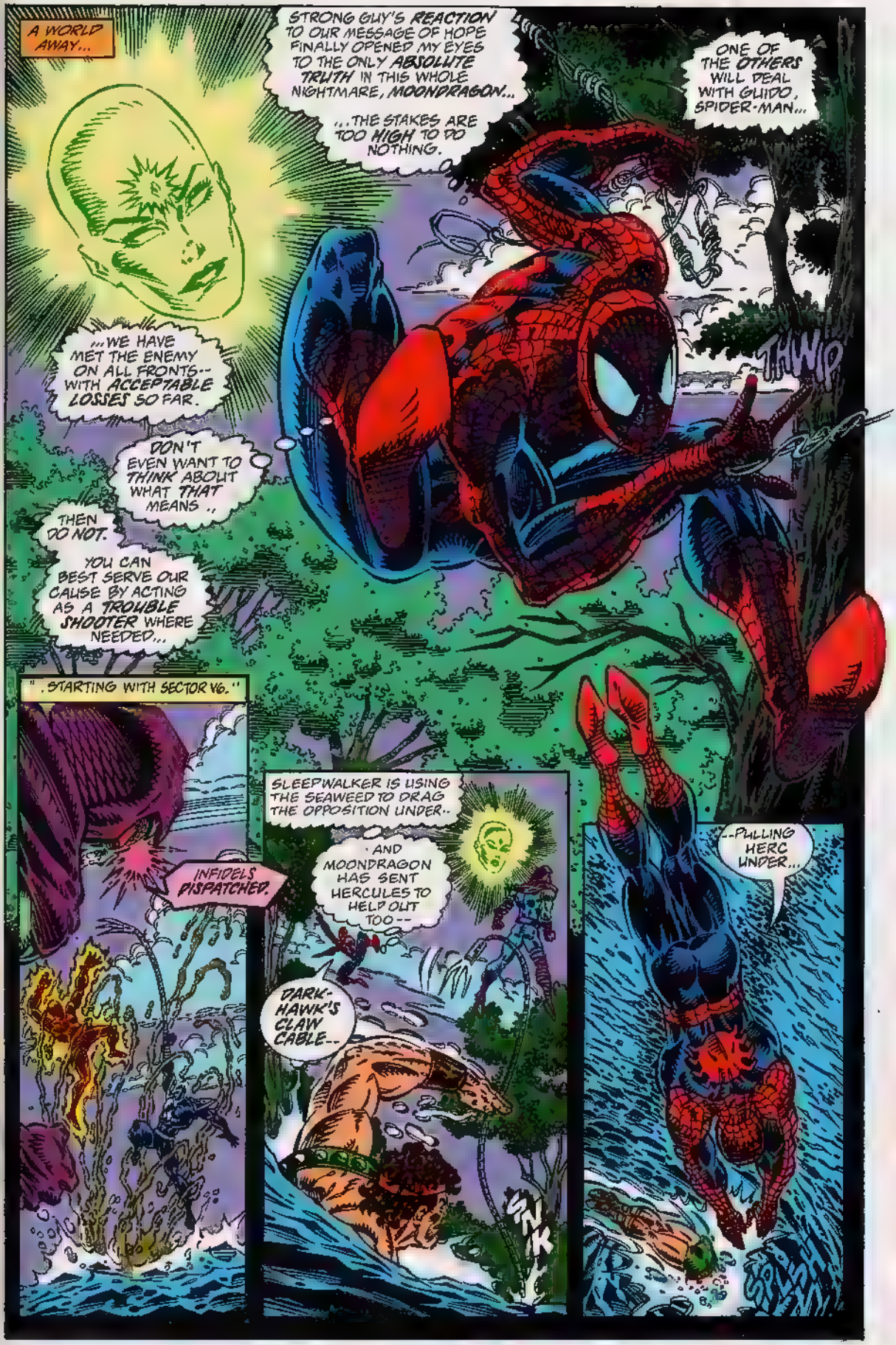
...THEY'LL ALL BE ABLE TO SEE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS BEFORE ANYONE HAS TO GET HURT.
BABBLING IDEALISM IS THE ONLY DANGER TO TRUE VISIONARIES, KID...
...AND A HOLY WAR ALWAYS REQUIRES BLOOD SACRIFICES.
BUT NEGOTIATIONS--
JUST HIT A DEAD END.
SHAKE A LEG, GUIDO!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO REACH YOUR RENDEZVOUS POINT IN TIME IF YOU--
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REACH YOUR RENDEZVOUS AT ALL, FIRESTAR!
MY PARTNER TOOK THE DECISION OUT OF MY HANDS...

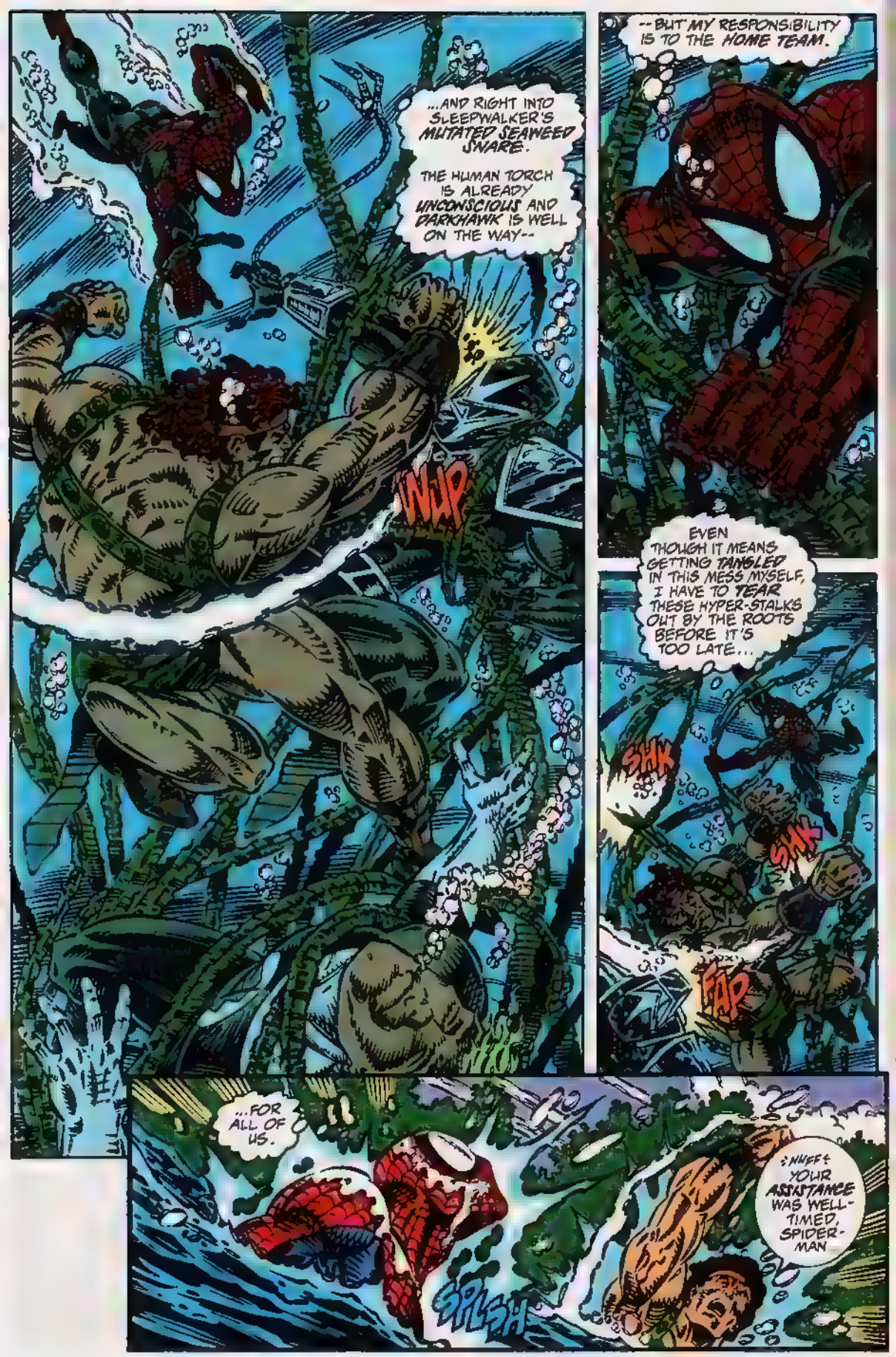
... LIKE THE ANSWER TO A COWARD'S PRAYER.
SPIDER-MAN AND PUCK FROM ALPHA FLIGHT!
THE MAN WINS HIMSELF A FACEFUL OF WEB-FLUID!
THWIP
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, HIGH POCKETS!
THIS PRIZE COMES WITH A COMPLEMENTARY BEATING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!
CAN'T SEE SQUAT!
WOK
WHOA! STRONG GUY'S WAY FASTER THAN HE LOOKS...
SAVE SOME FOR ME, SPIDE--
FZZT
WHAT?
FIRESTAR JUST NAILED PUCK--
SKRAAK

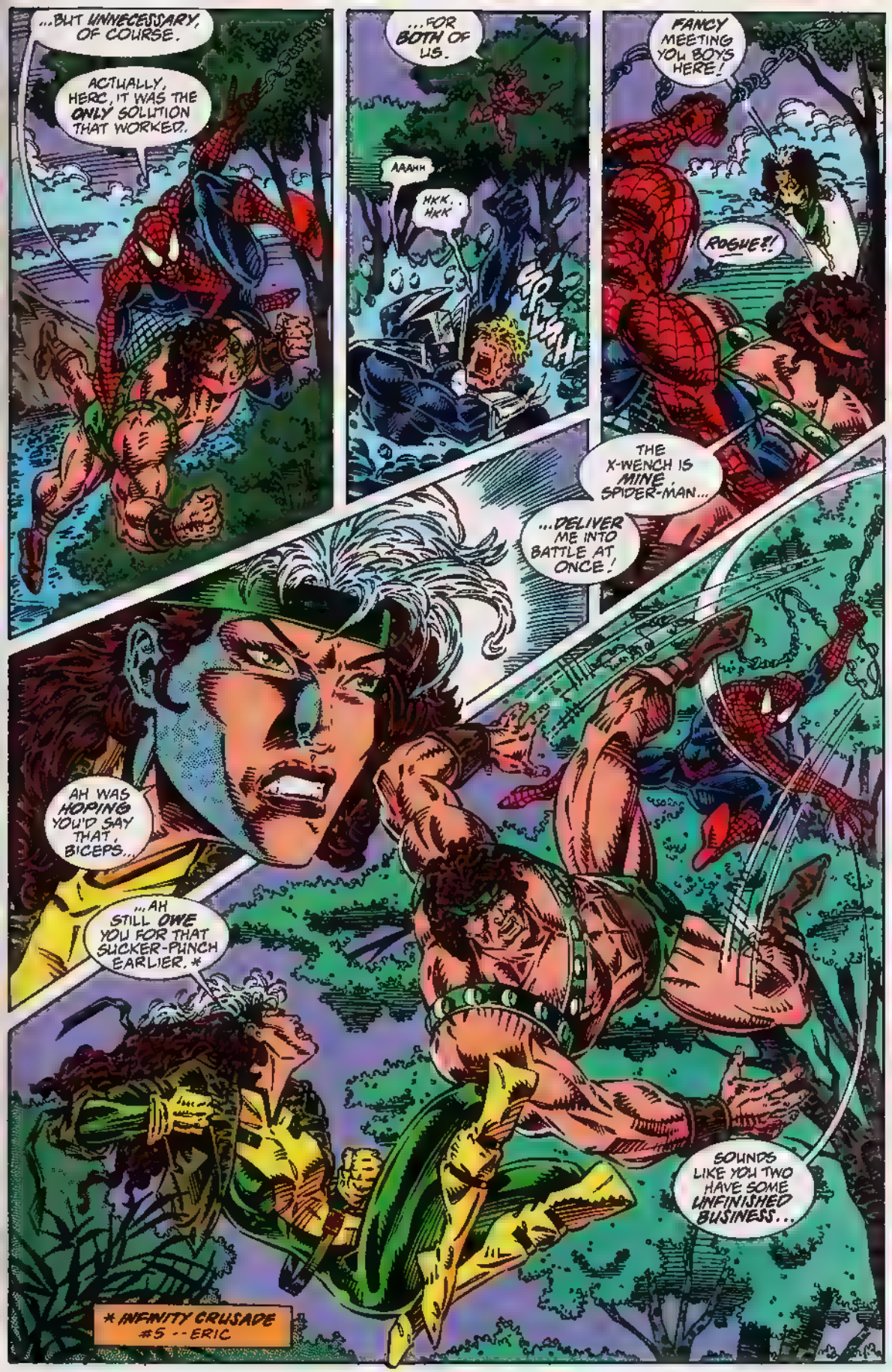
KWOOM
...AND HE FOLLOWED MY VOICE STRAIGHT TO MY BIG MOU--
"FRIENDS AGAINST FRIENDS."
...GOOD VS. BETTER.
BUT THERE'S NOBODY LEFT TO TELL ME WHICH SIDE IS WHICH ANYMORE

MEANWHILE, AN UNNATURAL PEACE GRIPS HUMANITY ITSELF...
...FORGING DESPERATE ALLIANCES OF ANOTHER SORT.
THIS ENTIRE PLANET'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A NEWS DROUGHT--AND THE BUGLE'S SITTING ON THE STORY OF THE DECADE HERE...
...IF WE HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO BACK IT UP IN THAT AGITATION TANK, MS. BRANT.
SAVE THE EDITOR IN CHIEF ATTITUDE FOR OUTSIDE THE DARKROOM, MR. ROBERTSON--
--ALL THE TIME I SPENT WITH A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER AS AGGRESSIVE AS PETER PARKER IS FINALLY PAYING OFF...
...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS PROJECT SANDSTORM (DEFENSE IMPERATIVE) TOP SECRET
NOW I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE SAFEST WAY TO TELL OUR PEERLESS PUBLISHER WHAT WE'VE UNCOVERED ABOUT HIS WIFE'S TOP SECRET E.S.U. WORK...
ALL THE PROOF WE NEED TO GO TO PRESS ABOUT THIS INNER-CITY WEAPONS TESTING IS UNDER THAT MAGNIFIER--

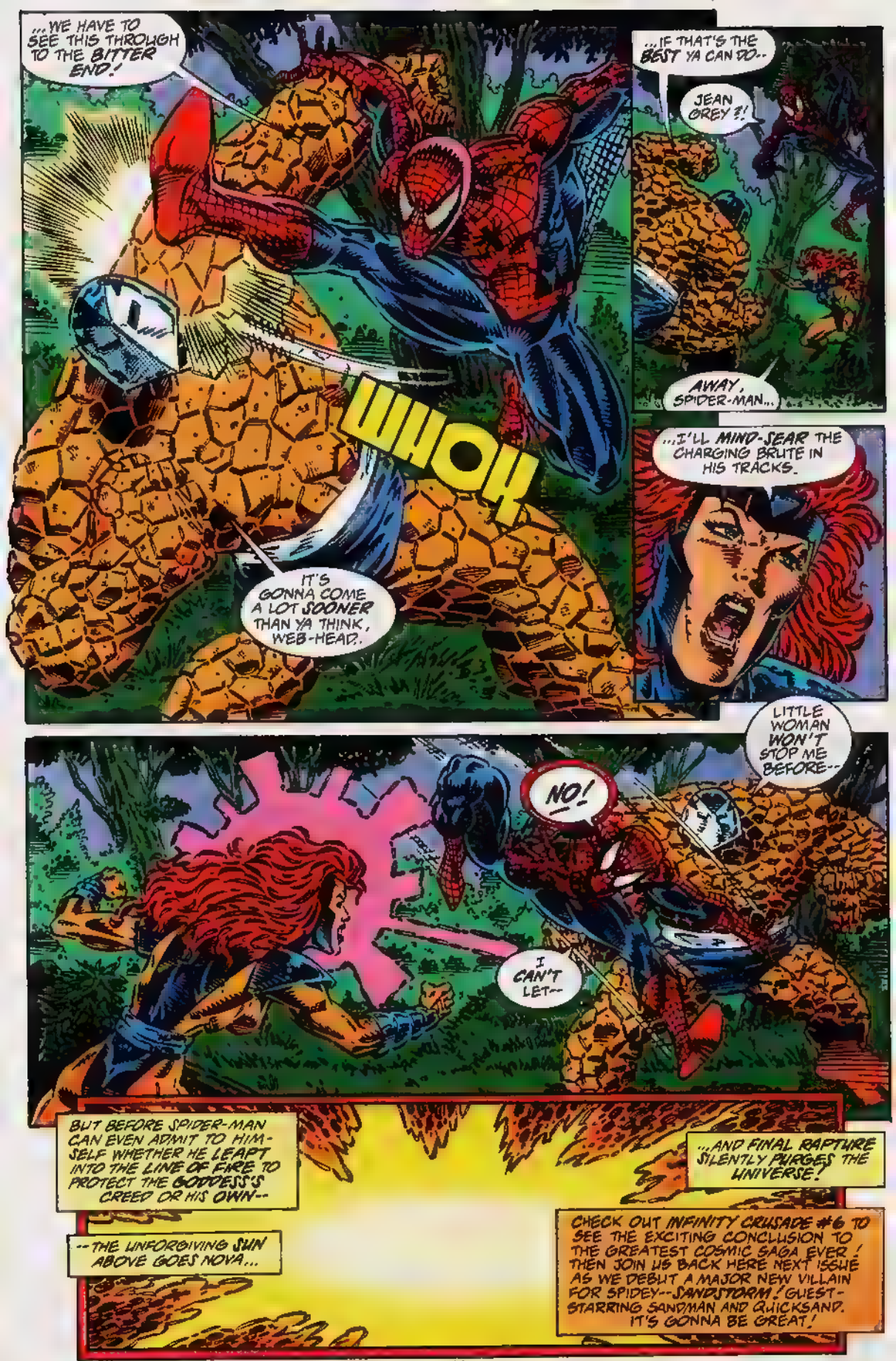
--AND JAMESON CERTAINLY KNOWS A SCOOP WHEN HE SEES ONE.
WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME BETTY...
..BUT MY EYES JUST AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE.
PRICE OF EXPERIENCE, ROBBIE.
BUT YOU WERE SHARP ENOUGH TO SPOT A BURIED PAPER TRAIL OF CORPORATE MONIES AND SHADOWY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LEADING TO THE FUND-HUNGRY LOCAL CAMPUS ORIGINALLY...
"...AND SMART ENOUGH TO ASSIGN THIS PARTICULAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER TO THE CASE QUIETLY."
DARKROOM
OFF LIMITS...
"BUT JONAH'S ALWAYS BEEN UNPREDICTABLE AT BEST..."
...DOESN'T APPLY TO ME.
...AND WHEN IT COMES TO WHAT LITTLE FAMILY HE HAS LEFT--
WHERE THE @#!% HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?!
AWKWARD SITUATION HERE, ROBBIE, BUT WE'RE ALL ADULTS--
OF COURSE NOT... I MEAN... UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
--AND I'M SURE MR JAMESON'S TOO MUCH OF A GENTLEMAN TO EXPOSE ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT THIS LITTLE... PRIVATE TRYST.


A WORLD AWAY...
STRONG GUY'S REACTION TO OUR MESSAGE OF HOPE FINALLY OPENED MY EYES TO THE ONLY ABSOLUTE TRUTH IN THIS WHOLE NIGHTMARE, MOONDRAGON...
...THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO DO NOTHING.
ONE OF THE OTHERS WILL DEAL WITH GUIDO, SPIDER-MAN...
THWIP
...WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY ON ALL FRONTS-- WITH ACCEPTABLE LOSSES SO FAR.
DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS..
THEN DO NOT.
YOU CAN BEST SERVE OUR CAUSE BY ACTING AS A TROUBLE SHOOTER WHERE NEEDED...
"...STARTING WITH SECTOR V6."
INFIDELS DISPATCHED.
SLEEPWALKER IS USING THE SEAWEED TO DRAG THE OPPOSITION UNDER..
AND MOONDRAGON HAS SENT HERCULES TO HELP OUT TOO--
DARK-HAWK'S CLAW CABLE--
SNK
--PULLING HERC UNDER...
SPLSH

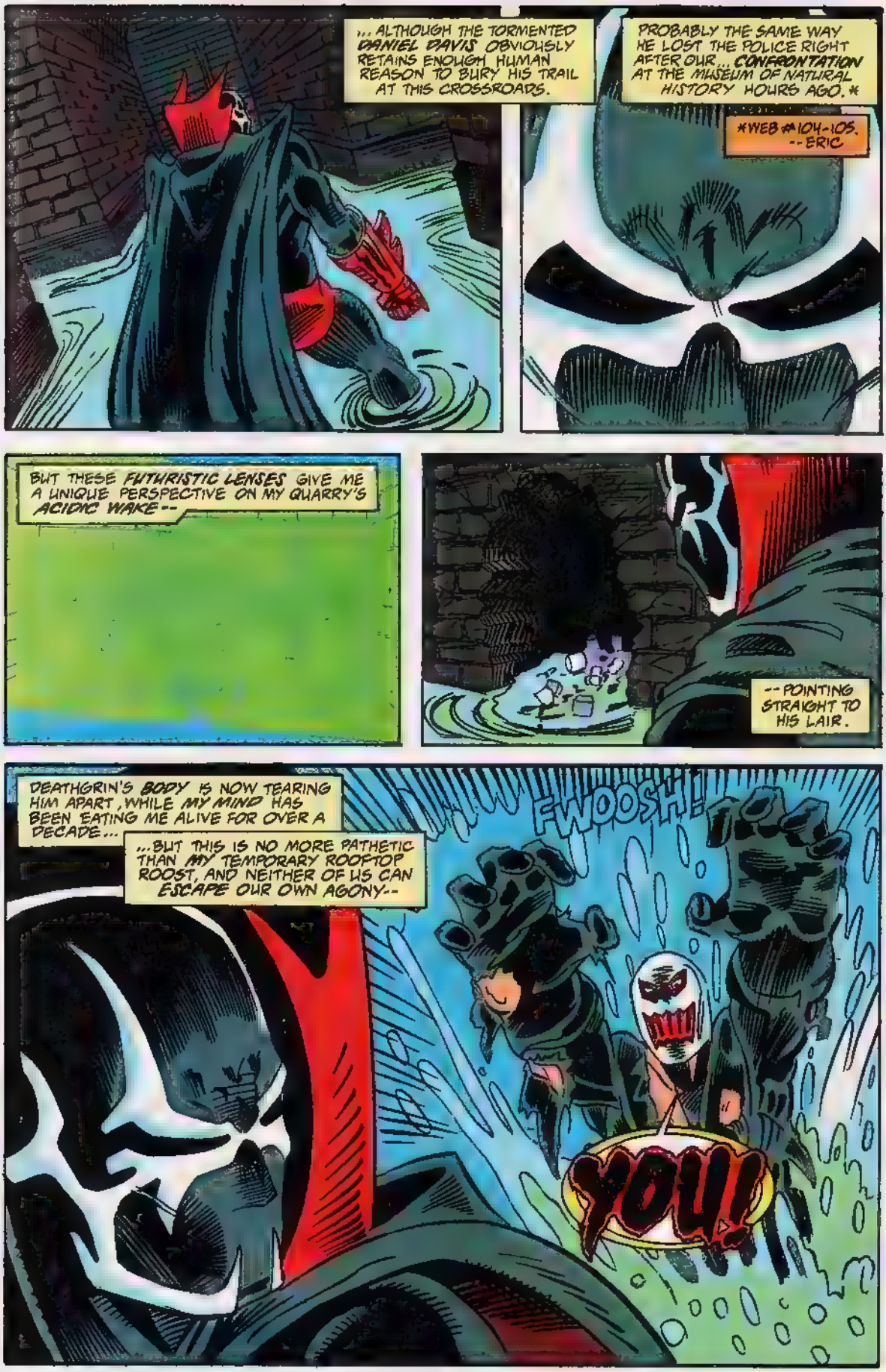

...AND RIGHT INTO SLEEPWALKER'S MUTATED SEAWEED SNARE.
THE HUMAN TORCH IS ALREADY UNCONSCIOUS AND DARKHAWK IS WELL ON THE WAY--
WUP
--BUT MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE HOME TEAM.
EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS GETTING TANGLED IN THIS MESS MYSELF, I HAVE TO TEAR THESE HYPER-STALKS OUT BY THE ROOTS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
SHK
SHK
FAP
...FOR ALL OF US.
SPLSH
:NNEF: YOUR ASSISTANCE WAS WELL-TIMED, SPIDER-MAN


...BUT UNNECESSARY, OF COURSE.
ACTUALLY, HERC, IT WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION THAT WORKED..
...FOR BOTH OF US.
AAAHH
HK'K.. HK'K
SPLASH
FANCY MEETING YOU BOYS HERE!
ROGUE?!
THE X-WENCH IS MINE, SPIDER-MAN...
...DELIVER ME INTO BATTLE AT ONCE!
AH WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT, BICEPS..
...AH STILL OWE YOU FOR THAT SUCKER-PUNCH EARLIER.*
SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS...
* INFINITY CRUSADE #5 -- ERIC

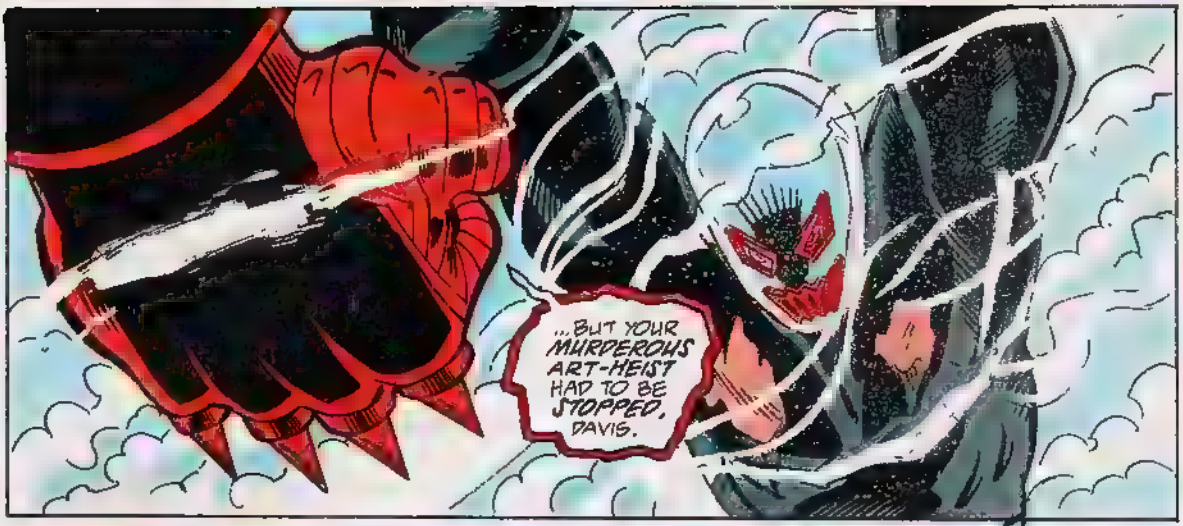
KROOM
...AND THREE'S A CROWD.
SHOCK WAVE FROM THE IMPACT OF TWO INVULNERABLE BODIES IS THROWING ME FOR A LOOP..
--BUT I DID THE JOB -- PUT ROGUE DOWN FOR THE COUNT.
TOO BAD IT HAD THE SAME EFFECT ON HERC AS WELL.
EVER SINCE GAMORA'S NERVE-BLOW* WORE OFF, I BEEN 'ITCHIN' TO TEACH YOU "INFINITY CRUSADERS" A LESSON 'BOUT HOSPITALITY..
*DELIVERED IN INFINITY CRUSADE #5. --ERIC
,AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MY PUPIL O'CHOICE, SPIDEY!
LISTEN, THING, I--
TOO LATE FER SMALL TALK, PEST!
YOU'RE GIVING ME NO CHOICE, BEN...
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
BWAM

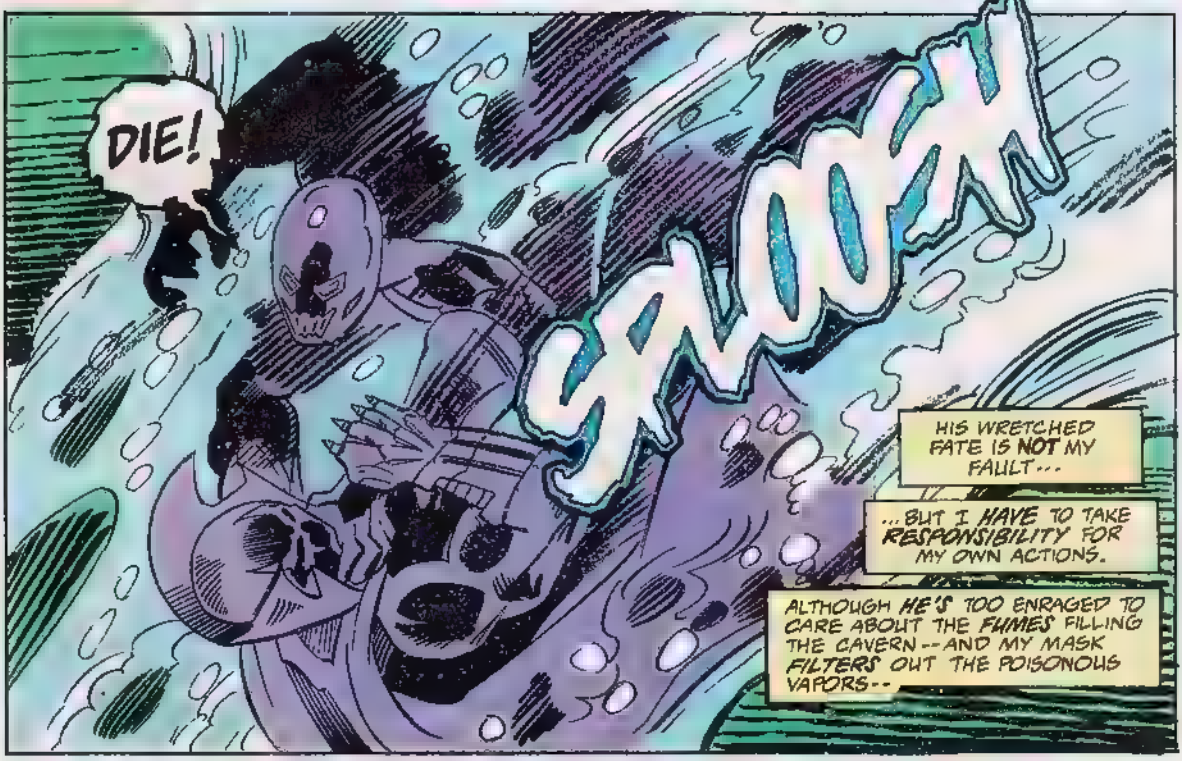

...WE HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE BITTER END!
WHOK
IT'S GONNA COME A LOT SOONER THAN YA THINK, WEB-HEAD!
...IF THAT'S THE BEST YA CAN DO--
JEAN GREY?!
AWAY, SPIDER-MAN...
...I'LL MIND-SEAR THE CHARGING BRUTE IN HIS TRACKS.
LITTLE WOMAN WON'T STOP ME BEFORE--
NO!
I CAN'T LET--
BUT BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN EVEN ADMIT TO HIMSELF WHETHER HE LEAPT INTO THE LINE OF FARE TO PROTECT THE GODDESS'S CREED OR HIS OWN--
--THE UNFORGIVING SUN ABOVE GOES NOVA...
...AND FINAL RAPTURE SILENTLY PURGES THE UNIVERSE!
CHECK OUT INFINITY CRUSADE #6 TO SEE THE EXCITING CONCLUSION TO THE GREATEST COSMIC SAGA EVER! THEN JOIN US BACK HERE NEXT ISSUE AS WE DEBUT A MAJOR NEW VILLAIN FOR SPIDEY--SANDSTORM! GUEST-STARRING SANDMAN AND QUICKSAND. IT'S GONNA BE GREAT!

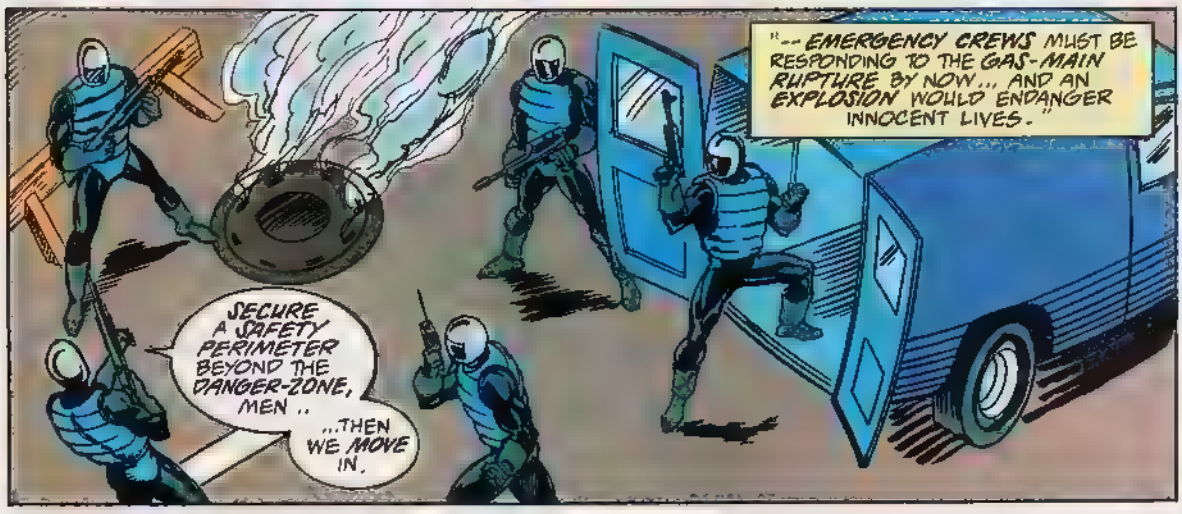
THE NEW YORK CITY SEWER SYSTEM LEAVES A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER...
...AND I'M BETTER DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION THAN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
BUT IF I DON'T GET OUT OF THIS NIGHTWATCH COSTUME REAL SOON...
...THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH LEFT OF KEVIN TRENCH TO FILL A BODY BAG.
FSSSS
FSSSS
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
NIGHTWATCH
IN:
THE KILLING GROUND
FSSSS
TERRY KAVANAGH · WRITER
BILL WYLIE · PENCILER
TIMOTHY TUOHY · INKER
STEVE DUTRO · LETTERER
BOB SHAREN · COLORIST
ERIC FEIN · EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH · GROUPIE
TOM DEFALCO · CHIEF
DEATHGRIN'S PATH OF DESTRUCTION IS EASY ENOUGH TO FOLLOW AT THIS POINT...

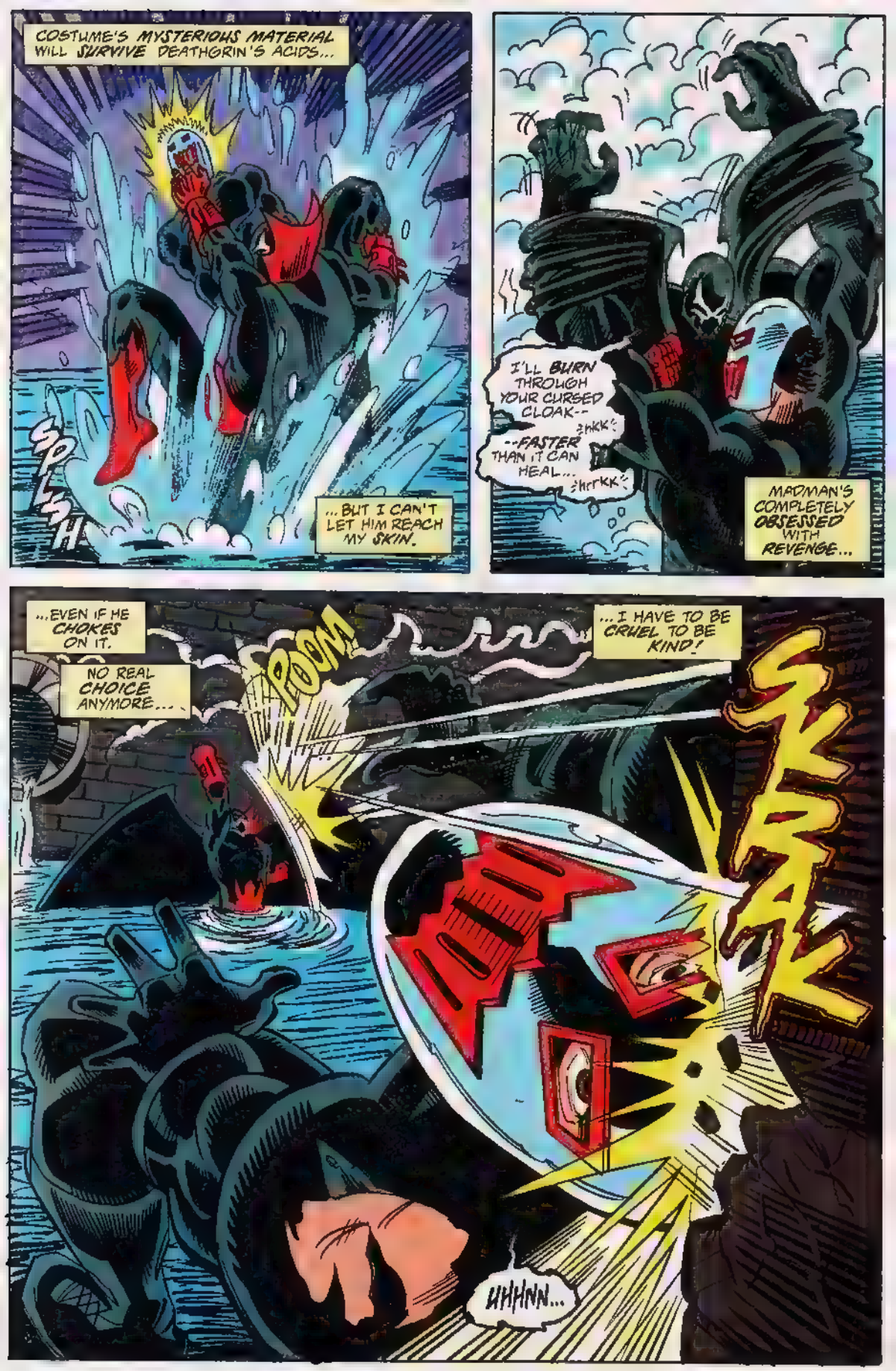

...ALTHOUGH THE TORMENTED DANIEL DAVIS OBVIOUSLY RETAINS ENOUGH HUMAN REASON TO BURY HIS TRAIL AT THIS CROSSROADS.
PROBABLY THE SAME WAY HE LOST THE POLICE RIGHT AFTER OUR... CONFRONTATION AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY HOURS AGO.*
*WEB #104-105. --ERIC
BUT THESE FUTURISTIC LENSES GIVE ME A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON MY QUARRY'S ACIDIC WAKE--
--POINTING STRAIGHT TO HIS LAIR.
DEATHGRIN'S BODY IS NOW TEARING HIM APART, WHILE MY MIND HAS BEEN EATING ME ALIVE FOR OVER A DECADE...
...BUT THIS IS NO MORE PATHETIC THAN MY TEMPORARY ROOFTOP ROOST, AND NEITHER OF US CAN ESCAPE OUR OWN AGONY--
FWOOSH!
YOU!

RAZOR-SHARP CLOAK RESPONDED INSTINCTIVELY TO THE THREAT BEHIND ME--
SHKK
WHFF
--BUT IT'S HARD TO GET UNDER DAVIS'S CALCIFIED SKIN SINCE THAT ARCANE DEATH-MASK MUTATED HIS BLOODSTREAM.
KWOOM
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE, NIGHTWATCH...
SKRAK
FSSH
...AND DEATHGRIN HAS LEARNED TO FIND STRENGTH IN PAIN!
FSSH
KRNG
TRAGIC JUSTICE...

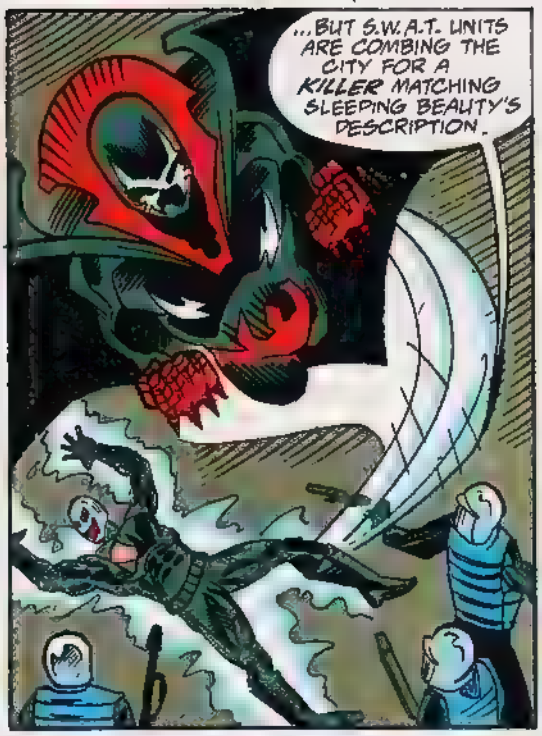

...BUT YOUR MURDEROUS ART-HEIST HAD TO BE STOPPED, DAVIS.

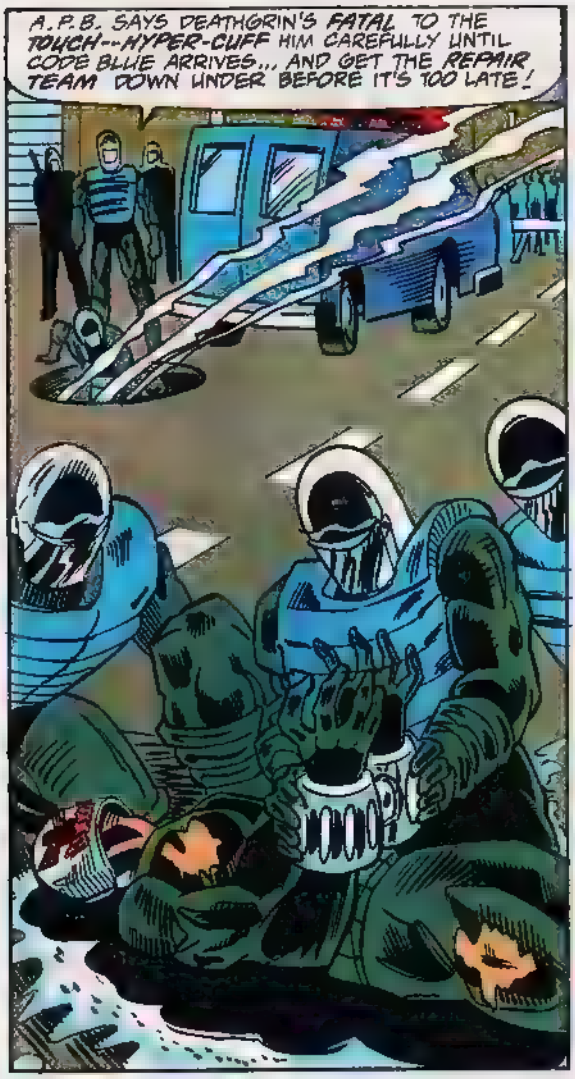

DIE!
SHOOM!
HIS WRETCHED FATE IS NOT MY FAULT...
...BUT I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY OWN ACTIONS.
ALTHOUGH HE'S TOO ENRAGED TO CARE ABOUT THE FUMES FILLING THE CAVERN--AND MY MASK FILTERS OUT THE POISONOUS VAPORS--

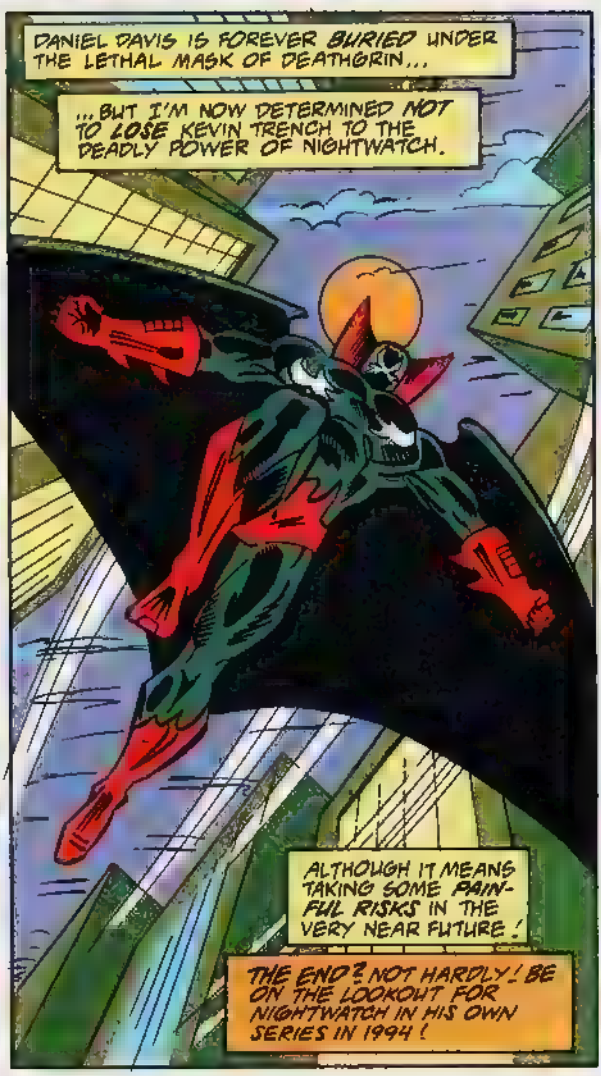

"--EMERGENCY CREWS MUST BE RESPONDING TO THE GAS-MAIN RUPTURE BY NOW... AND AN EXPLOSION WOULD ENDANGER INNOCENT LIVES."
SECURE A SAFETY PERIMETER BEYOND THE DANGER-ZONE, MEN..
...THEN WE MOVE IN.


COSTUME'S MYSTERIOUS MATERIAL WILL SURVIVE DEATHGRIN'S ACIDS...
SPLSH
...BUT I CAN'T LET HIM REACH MY SKIN.
I'LL BURN THROUGH YOUR CURSED CLOAK--
--FASTER THAN IT CAN HEAL...
MADMAN'S COMPLETELY OBSESSED WITH REVENGE...
...EVEN IF HE CHOKES ON IT.
NO REAL CHOICE ANYMORE...
POOM
...I HAVE TO BE CRUEL TO BE KIND!
SKRAK
UHHNN...

WHAT THE--?!
KRONG!
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT FLYING FREAK WAS...


...BUT S.W.A.T. UNITS ARE COMBING THE CITY FOR A KILLER MATCHING SLEEPING BEAUTY'S DESCRIPTION.


A.P.B. SAYS DEATHGRIN'S FATAL TO THE TOUCH--HYPER-CUFF HIM CAREFULLY UNTIL CODE BLUE ARRIVES... AND GET THE REPAIR TEAM DOWN UNDER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!


DANIEL DAVIS IS FOREVER BURIED UNDER THE LETHAL MASK OF DEATHGRIN...
...BUT I'M NOW DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE KEVIN TRENCH TO THE DEADLY POWER OF NIGHTWATCH.
ALTHOUGH IT MEANS TAKING SOME PAINFUL RISKS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!
THE END? NOT HARDLY! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NIGHTWATCH IN HIS OWN SERIES IN 1994!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

By now everyone, except for a few hermits in the Skrull Galaxy, knows that our X-Men cartoon series is Saturday morning's biggest hit since Wolverine whumped our typesetter for spelling his name wrong!

Now I can just hear you mumbling, "Okay, if we already know the X-Men are the pride and joy of the fabulous Fox Network, then why are you mentioning it now?" And once again I marvel at your perception and sagacity. But here's the skinny...

I have the extreme honor to devote this column, the most widely read and quoted in all of comicdom, to a very wonderful person named **Margaret Loesch.** If not for her, there might be a terrible, irreplaceable void in all our lives — because, if not for her, your Saturday mornings might still be empty, meaningless vacuums without the thrills and wonder of the world's most famous mutants!

You see, we had suggested doing the X-Men as an animated network series many times during the past years, but we were always met with the same negative excuses, "You can't do a cartoon series that has so many characters, especially if you insist on writing the series exactly like the comicbooks. Furthermore, cartoon adventure shows must be cute and innocuous and aimed at the very youngest viewers."

But along came the lovely Ms. Loesch, the president of Fox Children's Television Network. She had faith in the X-Men, she had faith in Marvel, and most of all, she had the keen judgment and rare courage to defy conventional thinking and let us do our TV show exactly like our mags — to produce stories with emotion, depth and intelligence — stories for viewers of all ages! The rest is history!

So often in life people fail to get the credit they may richly deserve. Not this time! We at Marvel are proud to publicly praise and honor, with deepest affection and admiration, a very special person — Margaret Loesch! And y'know something, Maggie? Even non-mutants love ya!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

ITEM!

We're returning to our old "Item! Item! Item!" style of Bullpen Paging for this week, so that we can catch up miscellaneous news. Will we still manage to be as facetious and frivolous as usual? Who — us?

ITEM! **Rob Tokar's** assistant editor **Dan Cuddy** recently left the editorial staff to devote full time to his hyper-groovy band, Hypnolovewheel. So long, Dan, and here's hoping your music career takes off faster than Nova the Human Rocket with his pants full of lit charcoal briquettes.

THE BULL'S EYE
by RICK PARKER
OH-HER ... THAT'S ROB'S NEW ASSISTANT PAULA... BY THE WAY HAVE YOU SEEN FABIAN ... HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DELIVER THE SCRIPT FOR X-MEN TWO HOURS AGO ...

Rob's new Tokar-ific assistant is **Paula Foye,** who has worked at Marvel since 1991 in various positions, though she never did get that spot as Tom DeFalco's personal karate instructor that she fought so hard for. Paula just spent a year at the film school at Columbia University, and her career goals, after "taking over the comics industry," include producing major motion pictures. Paula's writing credits for Marvel include stories for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS and NFL SUPERPRO. Welcome back, Paula — stay awhile!

ITEM! WHAT THE —?! writer/artist **Aaron Lopresti** found himself exclaiming "What the —?!" recently when his wife **Shelly** gave birth a week early. Just like Tom Cruise, Aaron's baby was born on the fourth of July, though it remains to be seen if the little firecracker will enter the risky business of comic book creating! The baby was almost named "Irving," after Aaron's beloved work on the Forbush Man strip, but the Loprestis decided to go with **Joshua** instead. Aaron noted that he has the "Death of Forbush Man" story coming up in the WHAT THE —?! FALL SPECIAL, which is due out any day now. After dying, will Forbush Man come back as four clones of himself? If he does, perhaps the "Reign of the Forbush Men" will be upon us!

ITEM! Are the rumors true? Will X-MEN-writer **Fabian Nicieza** really be posing for a series of posters where he's dressed as the Mighty Thor, God of Thunder? Where will we get enough blond hair to cover Fabe's ever-expanding forehead?

Wait! Those rumors are not true after all! It seems that the world's only male supermodel, **Fabio,** cover-featured on all those best-selling romance novels, stopped by the Marvel offices recently, to ponder a cinematic trip over the Rainbow Bridge. This is great news for fans of Fabio — who can make any book worth reading just by appearing on the cover — but bad news for our own Fabian, who had already started trying on long blond wigs left over from his days as a follower of Marsha Brady of the Brady Bunch.

Guess our Fabes will never get to find out if blonds really have more fun!

ITEM! We've had enough itemized fun for one page! See you next week in a brand new page!

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HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **AVENGERS ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE:** Come celebrate their 30th!
- ☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST #100: Mephisto's revenge!**
- ☐ **BIKER MICE FROM MARS #1:** Based on the animated hit!
- ☐ **CABLE #5:** Please, sir! Tell me the secret of Tolliver!
- ☐ **CAGE #20:** *Last issue!* The Cage has been closed!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #421:** Nomad wants to squash the Slug!
- ☐ **CHILDREN OF THE VOYAGER #3 OF 4:** It's Marvel UK-rific!
- ☐ **DANCES WITH DEMONS #3 OF 4:** Do they do the Mephisto Waltz?
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #22:** Under siege by Siege!
- ☐ **DARK GUARD #2:** Blimey! It's like a who's who of British heroes!
- ☐ **DARKHAWK #33:** Mako takes a bite out of Darkhawk!
- ☐ **DEATH'S HEAD 2 & KILLPOWER: BATTLETIDE 2 #4 OF 4:** The wrap-up!
- ☐ **DIE-CUT #1 OF 4:** The Beast cuts in!
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #108:** More Groo-some fun!
- ☐ **GUN RUNNER #2 OF 6:** We've got your Spirits of Vengeance right here!
- ☐ **MARVEL MASTERWORKS #24:** [redacted] the video game!
- ☐ **MOTORMOUTH & KILLPOWER #1 OF 4:** That Motormouth never shuts up!
- ☐ **NAMOR #44:** Rime of the Ancient Sub-Mariner!
- ☐ **NIGHTSTALKERS #13:** Betrayed from within!
- ☐ **NOMAD #16:** Nobody Faustus to print this story!
- ☐ **ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER #17:** Everyone's cowering before Infernot!
- ☐ **REN & STIMPY #12:** Will Stimpy be spayed?
- ☐ **SABRETOOTH #4 OF 4:** The fur is gonna fly!
- ☐ **SACHS & VIOLENS #1 OF 4:** By Peter David & George Perez!
- ☐ **SAINT SINNER #2:** We must confess, it's good!
- ☐ **SHE-HULK #57:** My cousin, the Hulk!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN 2099 #13:** Your future Spider sense will tingle!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN CLASSICS #3:** The Vulture returns!
- ☐ **THOR CORPS #3 OF 4:** With Spidey 2099!
- ☐ **THUNDERSTRIKE #2:** One word: Juggernaut!
- ☐ **UNCANNY X-MEN #309:** The X-Cutioner will enchant you!
- ☐ **VINTAGE PACK:** 20 classic Marvels in one pack!
- ☐ **WARLOCK CHRONICLES #5:** Warlock needs a feminine side!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #108:** Caught between Firestar and Strong Guy! Also available polybagged with DIRT MAGAZINE!

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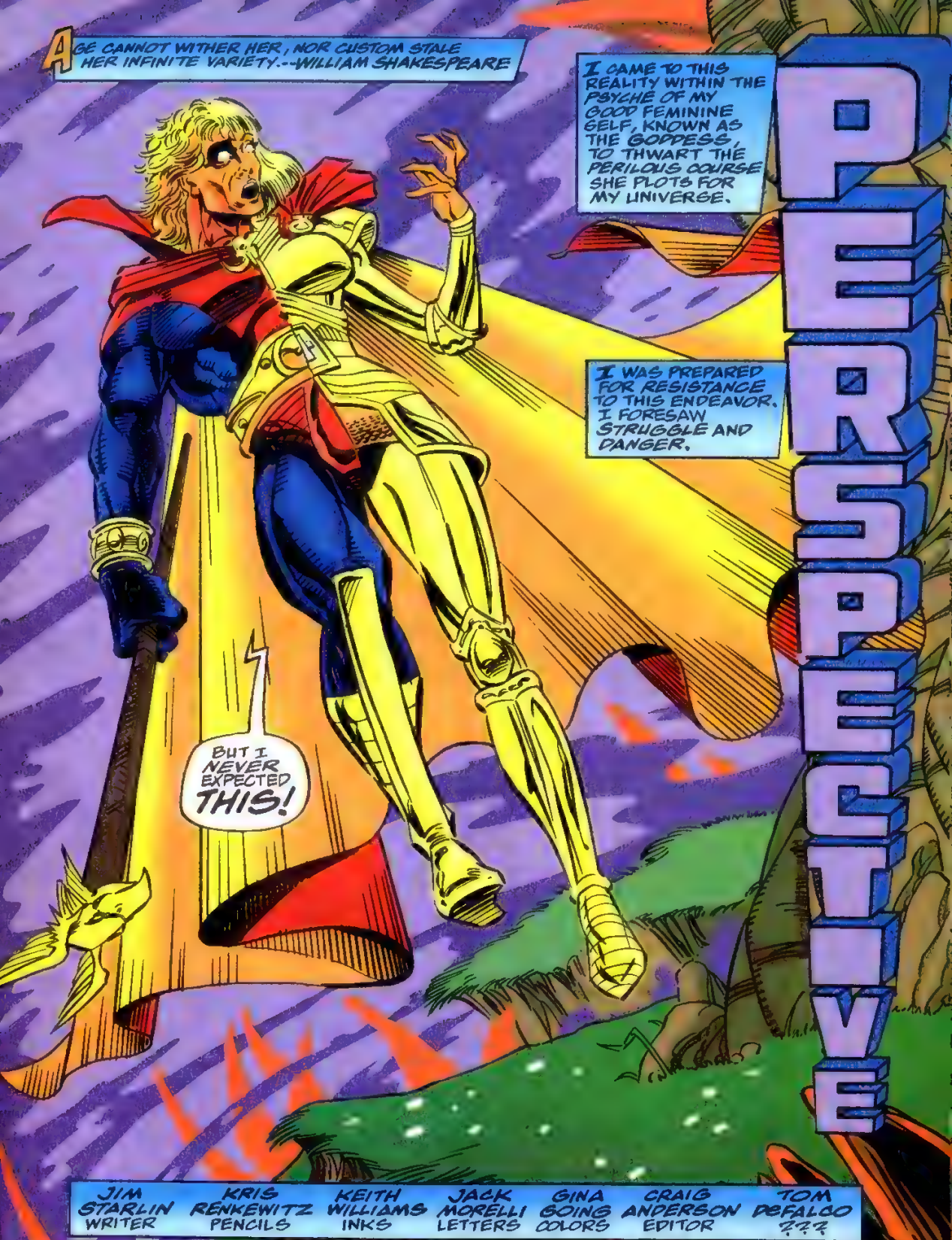
AGE CANNOT WITHER HER, NOR CUSTOM STALE HER INFINITE VARIETY.--WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
I CAME TO THIS REALITY WITHIN THE PSYCHE OF MY GOOD FEMININE SELF, KNOWN AS THE GODDESS, TO THWART THE PERILOUS COURSE SHE PLOTS FOR MY UNIVERSE.
I WAS PREPARED FOR RESISTANCE TO THIS ENDEAVOR. I FORESAW STRUGGLE AND DANGER.
BUT I NEVER EXPECTED THIS!
PERSPECTIVE

JIM STARLIN WRITER | KRIS RENKEWITZ PENCILS | KEITH WILLIAMS INKS | JACK MORELLI LETTERS | GINA GOING COLORS | CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR | TOM DEFALCO ???

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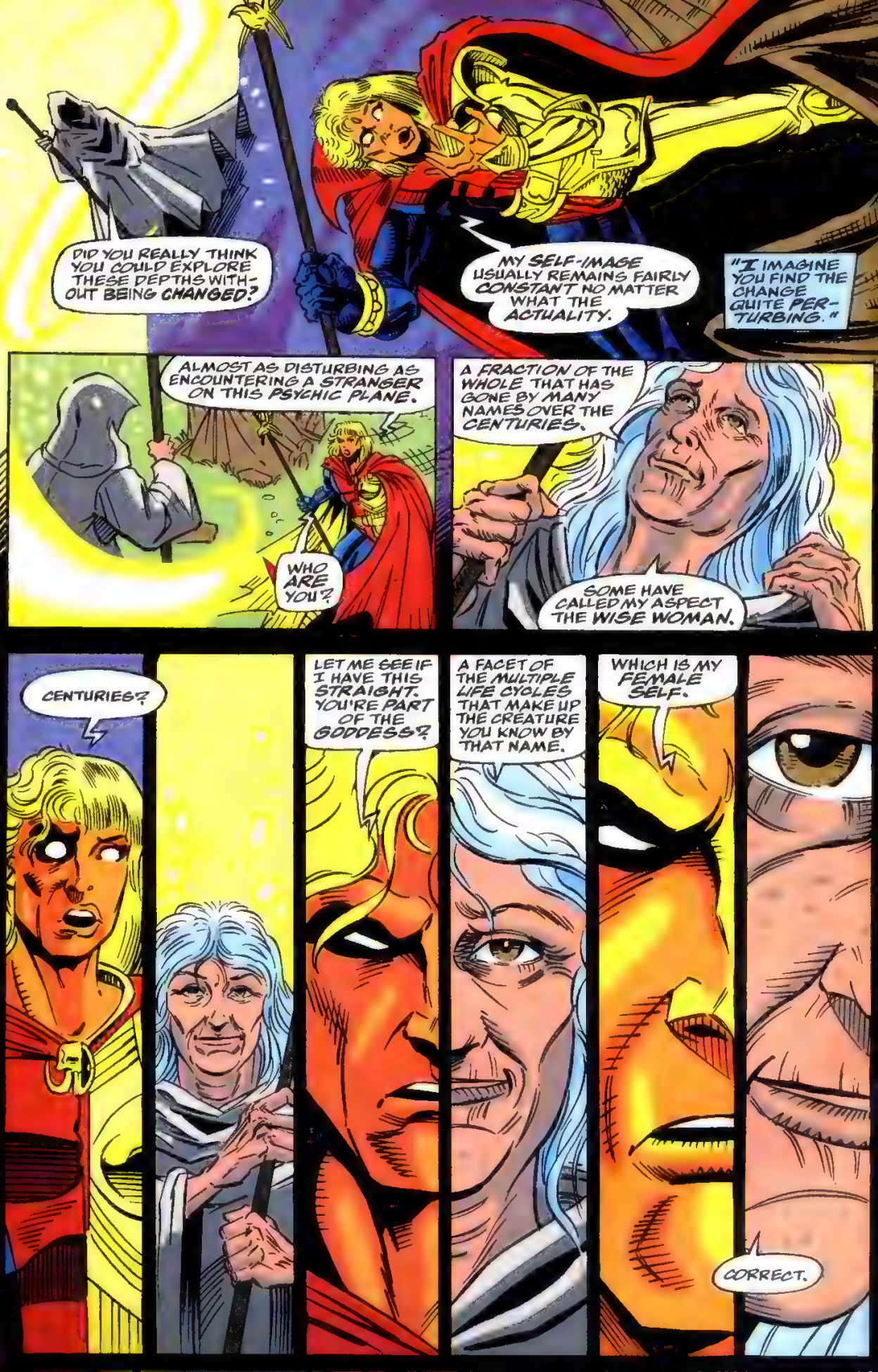
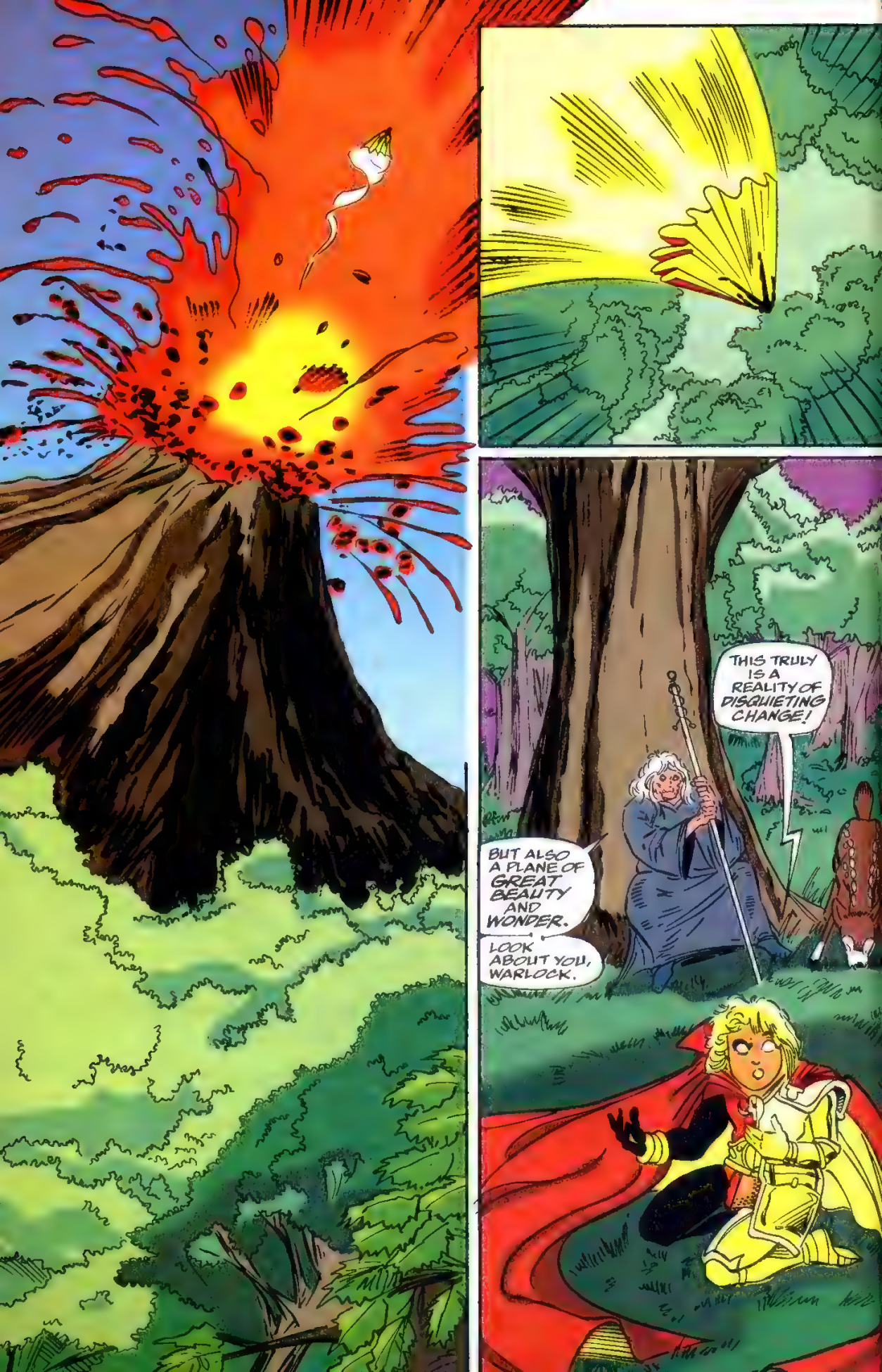

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD EXPLORE THESE DEPTHS WITHOUT BEING CHANGED?
MY SELF-IMAGE USUALLY REMAINS FAIRLY CONSTANT NO MATTER WHAT THE ACTUALITY.
"I IMAGINE YOU FIND THE CHANGE QUITE PERTURBING."
ALMOST AS DISTURBING AS ENCOUNTERING A STRANGER ON THIS PSYCHIC PLANE.
WHO ARE YOU?
A FRACTION OF THE WHOLE THAT HAS GONE BY MANY NAMES OVER THE CENTURIES.
SOME HAVE CALLED MY ASPECT THE WISE WOMAN.
CENTURIES?
LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT. YOU'RE PART OF THE GODDESS?
A FACET OF THE MULTIPLE LIFE CYCLES THAT MAKE UP THE CREATURE YOU KNOW BY THAT NAME.
WHICH IS MY FEMALE SELF.
CORRECT.

WHICH MEANS YOU ARE PART OF ME.
EXACTLY.
CENTURIES.
INTERESTING.
UNTIL THIS MOMENT I BELIEVED MY LIFE EXPERIENCES BEGAN AT A SCIENTIFIC COMPLEX CALLED THE HIVE.
AN ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTION.
I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ENLIGHTENMENT YOU MIGHT SHED ON THIS MATTER.
IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.
BUT DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE TIME TO EXPLORE -SUCH MATTERS..?
NO, I SENSE THE GODDESS'S DEADLY DESIGN NEARS COMPLETION.
FROM YOUR MANNER, I TAKE IT YOU ARE NO ALLY TO THE GODDESS?
HER TWISTED SCHEME OFFENDS ME TO THE VERY CORE OF MY BEING.
BUT YOUR CHANCES OF BESTING THE GODDESS IN THIS AFFAIR ARE... MINIMAL.
WHY THINK YOU THAT?
BECAUSE YOU ARE LIMITED IN YOUR PERSPECTIVE, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DETACHED FROM YOUR FEMININE SELF.
NOT ENTIRELY.

THAT IS BUT A SUPERFICIAL ALTERATION.
WITHIN, YOU REMAIN AS YOU ALWAYS WERE.
A CHANGE OF MIND-SET IS REQUIRED TO GAIN SALVATION?
ISN'T IT ALWAYS? ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SUCH CHANGE?
CHANGE AND I ARE CONSTANT COMPANIONS. I SUPPOSE THIS INVOLVES A JOURNEY?
IT IS THE TRADITIONAL METHOD OF GAINING ENLIGHTENMENT.
AND YOU PLAN TO ACCOMPANY ME?
YES. IT IS MY TASK.
NOT OFTEN DOES THE MALE PERSONALITY TRAVEL THIS PATH.
BECAUSE OF THE DANGER?
NO, BECAUSE OF THE REALIZATION.
EEEAAAH!


THIS TRULY IS A REALITY OF DISQUIETING CHANGE!
BUT ALSO A PLANE OF GREAT BEAUTY AND WONDER.
LOOK ABOUT YOU, WARLOCK.

YOU SPEAK TRULY, WISE WOMAN.
THESE SURROUNDINGS REMIND ME OF SOUL WORLD. IT'S MARVELOUS!
CHILDHOOD IS SUPPOSED TO BE SO.
AND FOR THE GODDESS MANY HAVE BEEN.
WHICH MADE THE HARSH REALITY OF LATER LIFE SO MUCH MORE PAINFUL.
OWW!
A THORN.
A LITTLE CLIPPING SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER.
HUH?
HANDS OFF!
TRIMMING'S MY JOB!

THE MAGUS?!
MAN'S WORK HAS TO BE DONE BY A MAN!
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS!
NOW, ISN'T THAT BETTER?
BETTER?
YOU DID.
YOU AND THE REST OF LIFE.
WHO GAVE HIM THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THAT?
WHAT?!

EVERYTHING EXPLODING AROUND ME!
WISE WOMAN, WHERE ARE YOU ?!?!
RUN!
MY HAND, GIRL!

SALVATION.
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, LASS.
THE DANGER IS PAST.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
YES... SAFE....
ARE YOU REALLY?
WHY DO YOU NOT QUESTION WHAT LIES BEHIND THE MASK OF YOUR RESCUER?

YOU!
CURSED PSYCHIC PLANES. ALWAYS FULL OF UNPLEASANT SURPRISES.
UNEARTHING MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.
NO!
NOT THIS!

NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.
ALMOST PLEASANT.
WAIT!
PAIN!
AARGH!
IT'S... LOVELY.
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED OF ME.
I WOULD NOT HURT YOU. I PROMISE.
I WILL NOT LET ANYONE EVER HURT YOU.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
DON'T LEAVE ME!
IT ABANDONED ME.
AND WENT ABOUT ITS OWN LIFE. IT ALWAYS DOES.
THAT'S AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CYCLE.
I KNOW. STILL....
NOW WHAT?
YOU GO ON. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT THAT.
WHICH DIRECTION?
THAT'S ALWAYS THE QUESTION, ISN'T IT?
DOES IT EVER HAVE AN ANSWER?!

MANY.
BUT SELECTING THE RIGHT ONE IS THE TRICK.
LIFE PATHS?
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
HUH?
THEY'VE ALL DISAPPEARED!
YOU WAITED TOO LONG TO CHOOSE.
YOU ALWAYS WAIT TOO LONG.
ALWAYS?
THAT HAS BEEN THE PATTERN.

AND THEN?
THE INEVITABLE DARKNESS.
NO, IT'S UNFAIR!
I'LL NOT LET IT BE THIS WAY!
THIS TIME I'LL MAKE IT DIFFERENT!
I CAN DO IT!!
I WON'T LET THEM GRIND ME DOWN!
I WON'T!
THAT'S IT!
THE LIGHT WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE THIS TIME AROUND!
IT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING!
WHAT?

NO!

THAT'S IT..?
FOR THE MOST PART, AS FAR AS YOU GO, YES.
NOTHING MORE?
ONLY THE PORTAL TO THE GODDESS'S DARKEST WISH.
I MISSED SOMETHING, DIDN'T I?
MANY TIMES.
IN PAST LIFE CYCLES?
WE ALL HAVE OUR PREFERENCES.
YOU ALWAYS FAVORED YOUR MALE SIDE.
NEARLY ENDLESS MISTAKES REPEATED IN MYRIAD FASHIONS.
UNTIL NOW.
BECAUSE IN EXPELLING IT FROM YOUR BEING, YOU FINALLY GAVE YOUR FEMININE SELF FULL EMPOWERMENT!
AFTER SUPPRESSING IT FOR UNTOLD LIFETIMES.
THE FRUSTRATION MUST'VE BEEN...
...MADDENING.
FOR THIS THE GODDESS FEELS SOMEONE MUST PAY DEARLY.

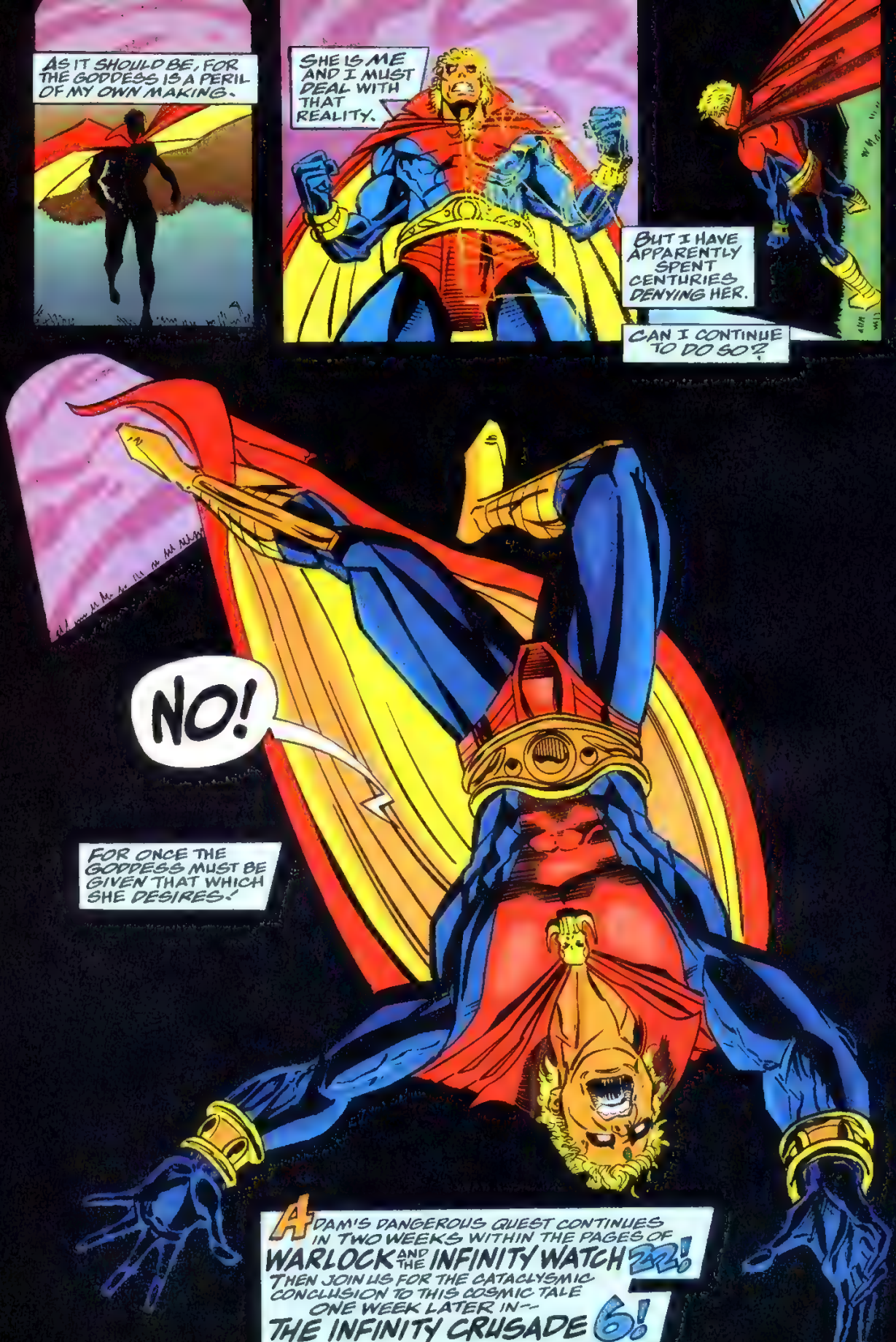
I CAN EASILY GUESS WHO THAT SOMEONE IS.
EVERYONE LIVING.
BUT IN HER MADNESS EVEN THAT WILL NOT PROVE RETRIBUTION ENOUGH.
INSTEAD OF HEALING THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE FOREVER PLAGUED MYSELF AND HER, THE GODDESS SEEKS SALVATION IN AN OUTSIDE AGENCY.
SHE HAS PUT HER FAITH IN FAITH TO RESCUE HER.
THE GODDESS HAS FORGED HER RELIGIOUS BELIEFS INTO A WEAPON OF VENGEANCE.
HOW PLANS SHE TO USE IT?
WHAT IS HER DARKEST WISH?
I MUST KNOW.

THE UNIVERSE.

SOME OF THE STARS ARE FLARING!
GOING NOVA!
ALL OF THEM EXPLODING!
THE END OF THE UNIVERSE!

SHE PLANS TO DESTROY... EVERYTHING!
WHAT WILL THAT GAIN HER? NOTHING.
IN HER DISTORTED REASONING, IT'S THE ONLY WAY SHE FEELS SHE CAN PREVAIL.
SUCH AN EMPTY VICTORY.
ALONE WITH HER TRIUMPH.

BUT SHE'LL SOON REALIZE THAT THERE ARE REALITIES BEYOND THE ONE SHE PLANS TO DECIMATE.
THEN THE CYCLE WILL REPEAT ITSELF.
INSANE.
YOU ALWAYS HAD A BIT OF THE NIHILIST IN YOU, ADAM.
IT MAKES IT NO LESS WRONG.
WHAT IN THE GODDESS'S EXISTENCE HASN'T BEEN WRONG..?
YOU AND SHE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLIND TO THE GOOD AND SAW ONLY PAIN.
CAN I CHANGE THAT?
NO ONE BUT YOU CAN.
BUT HOW?
ACCEPT HER.
WAIT!
GONE.
ALONE.


AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR THE GODDESS IS A PERIL OF MY OWN MAKING.
SHE IS ME AND I MUST DEAL WITH THAT REALITY.
BUT I HAVE APPARENTLY SPENT CENTURIES DENYING HER.
CAN I CONTINUE TO DO SO?
NO!
FOR ONCE THE GODDESS MUST BE GIVEN THAT WHICH SHE DESIRES!
ADAM'S DANGEROUS QUEST CONTINUES IN TWO WEEKS WITHIN THE PAGES OF WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH 22!
THEN JOIN US FOR THE CATACLYSMIC CONCLUSION TO THIS COSMIC TALE ONE WEEK LATER IN--
THE INFINITY CRUSADE 6!

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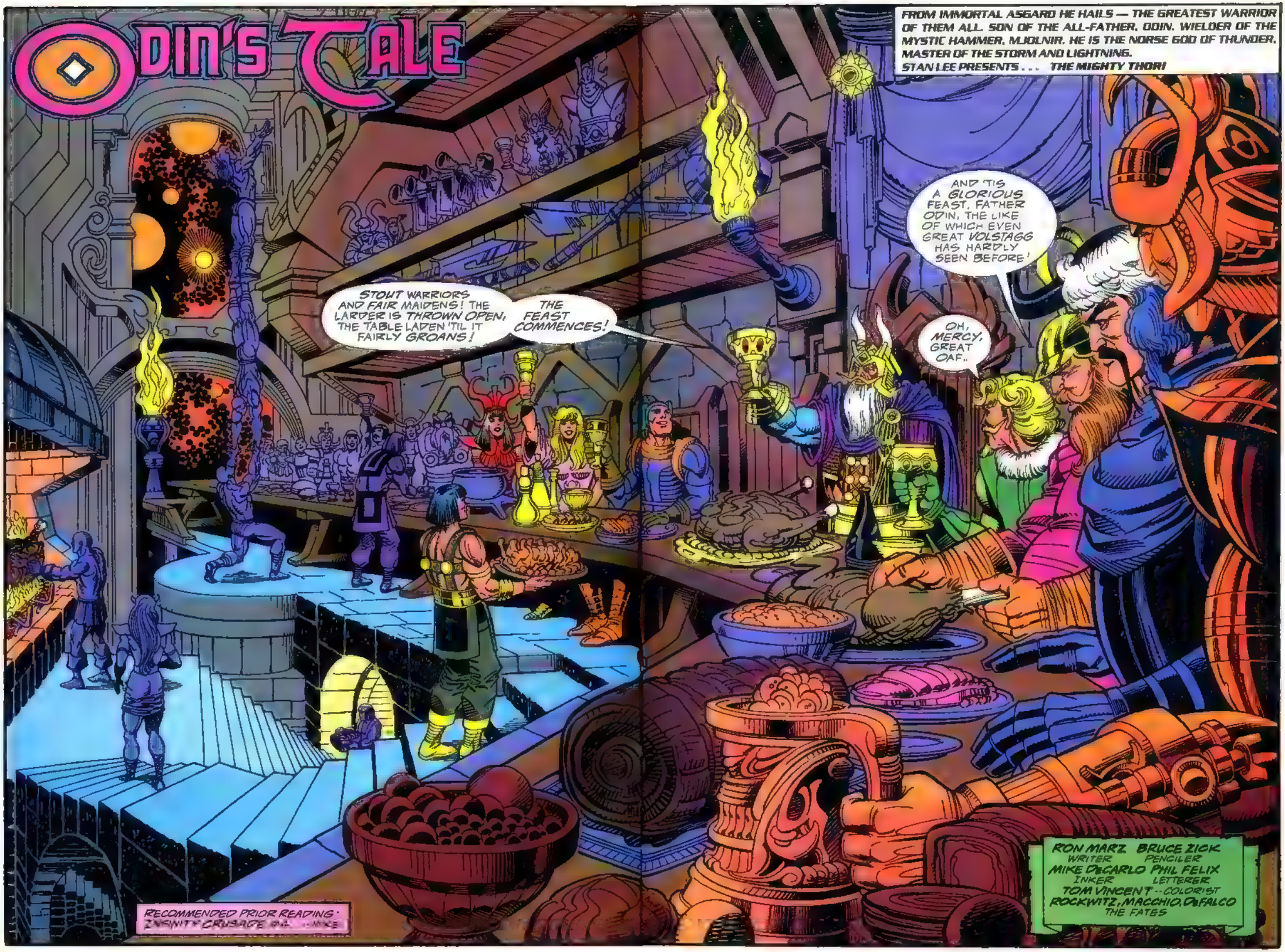
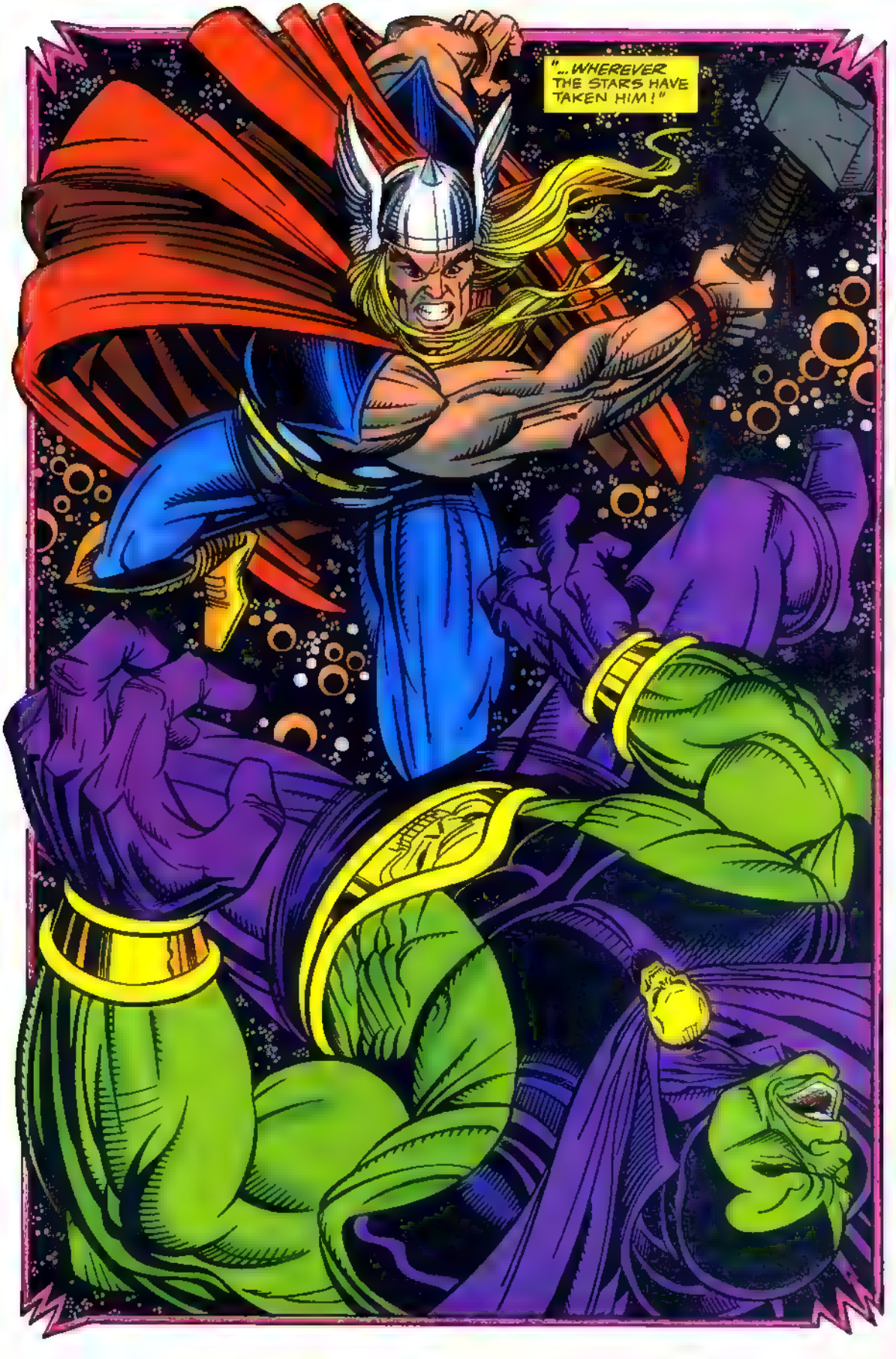
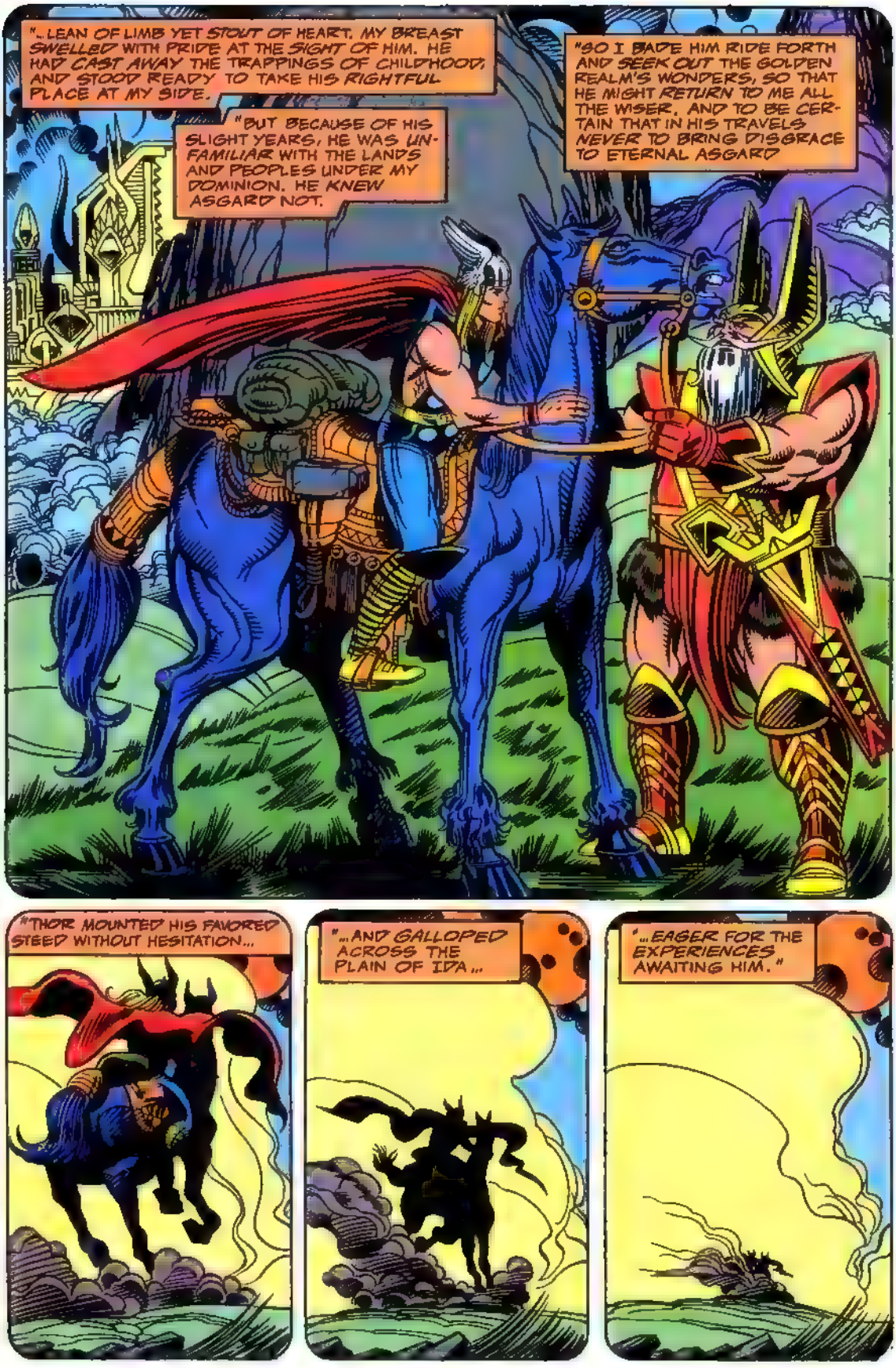
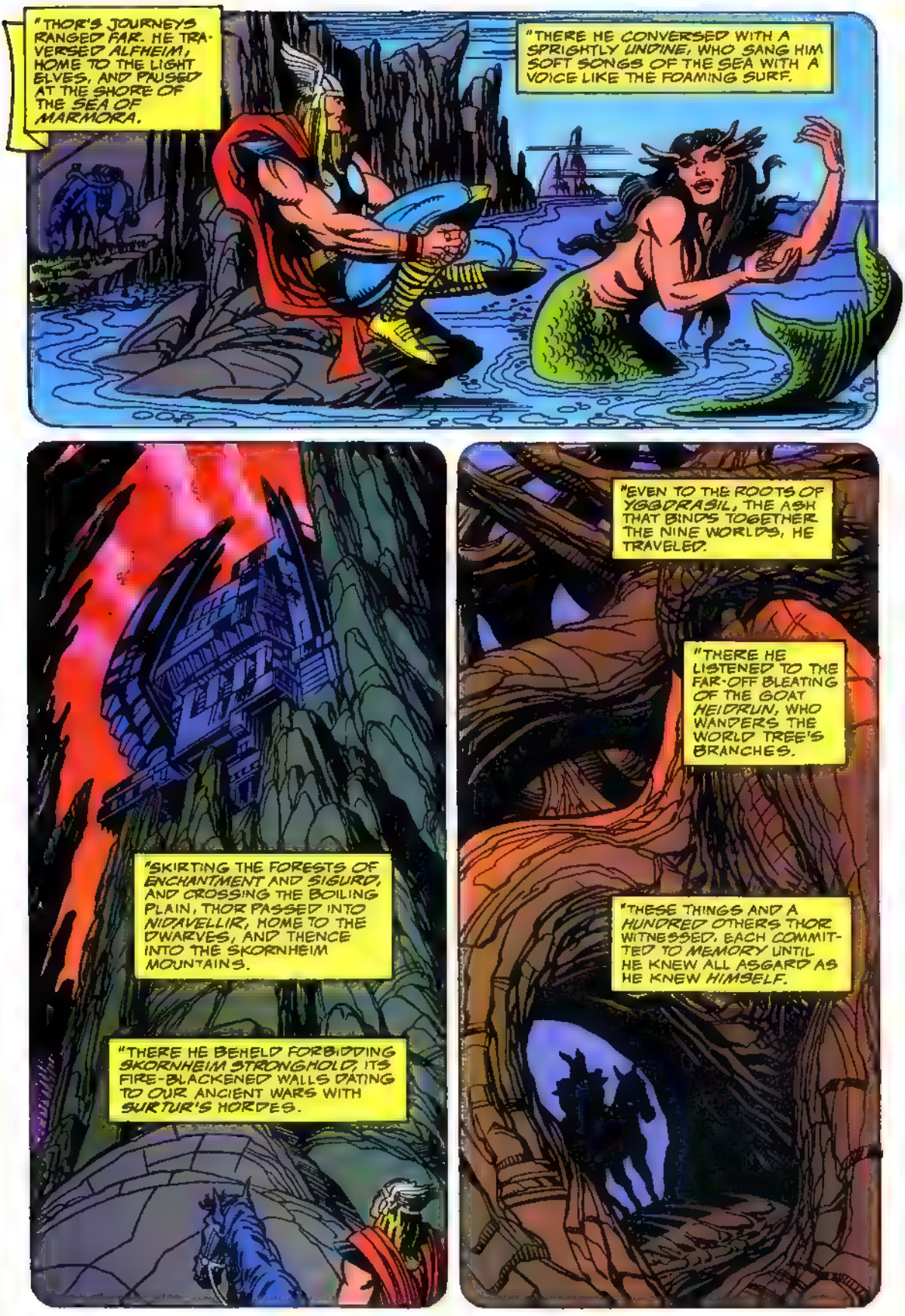

ODIN'S TALE
FROM IMMORTAL ASGARD HE HAILS — THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THEM ALL. SON OF THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN. WIELDER OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER, MJOLNIR. HE IS THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER, MASTER OF THE STORM AND LIGHTNING.
STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE MIGHTY THOR!
STOUT WARRIORS AND FAIR MAIDENS! THE LARDER IS THROWN OPEN, THE TABLE LADEN 'TIL IT FAIRLY GROANS!
THE FEAST COMMENCES!
AND 'TIS A GLORIOUS FEAST, FATHER ODIN, THE LIKE OF WHICH EVEN GREAT VOLSTAGG HAS HARDLY SEEN BEFORE!
OH, MERCY, GREAT OAF..
RECOMMENDED PRIOR READING: INFINITY CRUSADE #4 -- MIKE
RON MARZ WRITER
BRUCE ZICK PENCILER
MIKE DECARLO INKER
PHIL FELIX LETTERER
TOM VINCENT -- COLORIST
ROCKWITZ, MACCHIO, DEFALCO THE FATES

I AM AN OPTIMIST, FANDRAL, WHEREAS YOU FRET TOO MUCH.
...NEVER HAVE YOU SAT BEFORE A FEAST THAT DID NOT IMPRESS YOU AS INFINITELY GREATER THAN THE LAST.
YOU SHOULD BE OF CONSTANT GOOD HUMOR, LIKE OUR JOLLY FRIEND HOGUN.
SEE? HE CAN SCARCELY RESTRAIN HIMSELF.
HA!
COME, HOGUN! TELL US WHAT GIVES YOU SUCH MIRTH!
THESE HAPPY THOUGHTS MUST BE SHARED WITH YOUR COMRADES-AT-ARMS!
I THINK ON THOR. HIS PLACE AT ODIN'S HAND STANDS EMPTY. OUR MERRIMENT SEEMS WANTING SINCE THE THUNDER GOD LEFT OUR GOLDEN SHORES."
THOR #460. --MIKE
SO IT DOES!
A TOAST THEN, TO OUR WANDERING BROTHER THOR!
MAY HE BE HALE AND HEARTY, MAY HIS ADVENTURES BE SUCH STUFF AS SONGS ARE MADE OF, AND...
...AND...
...AND MAY HIS BELLY NEVER GROWL WITH HUNGER...

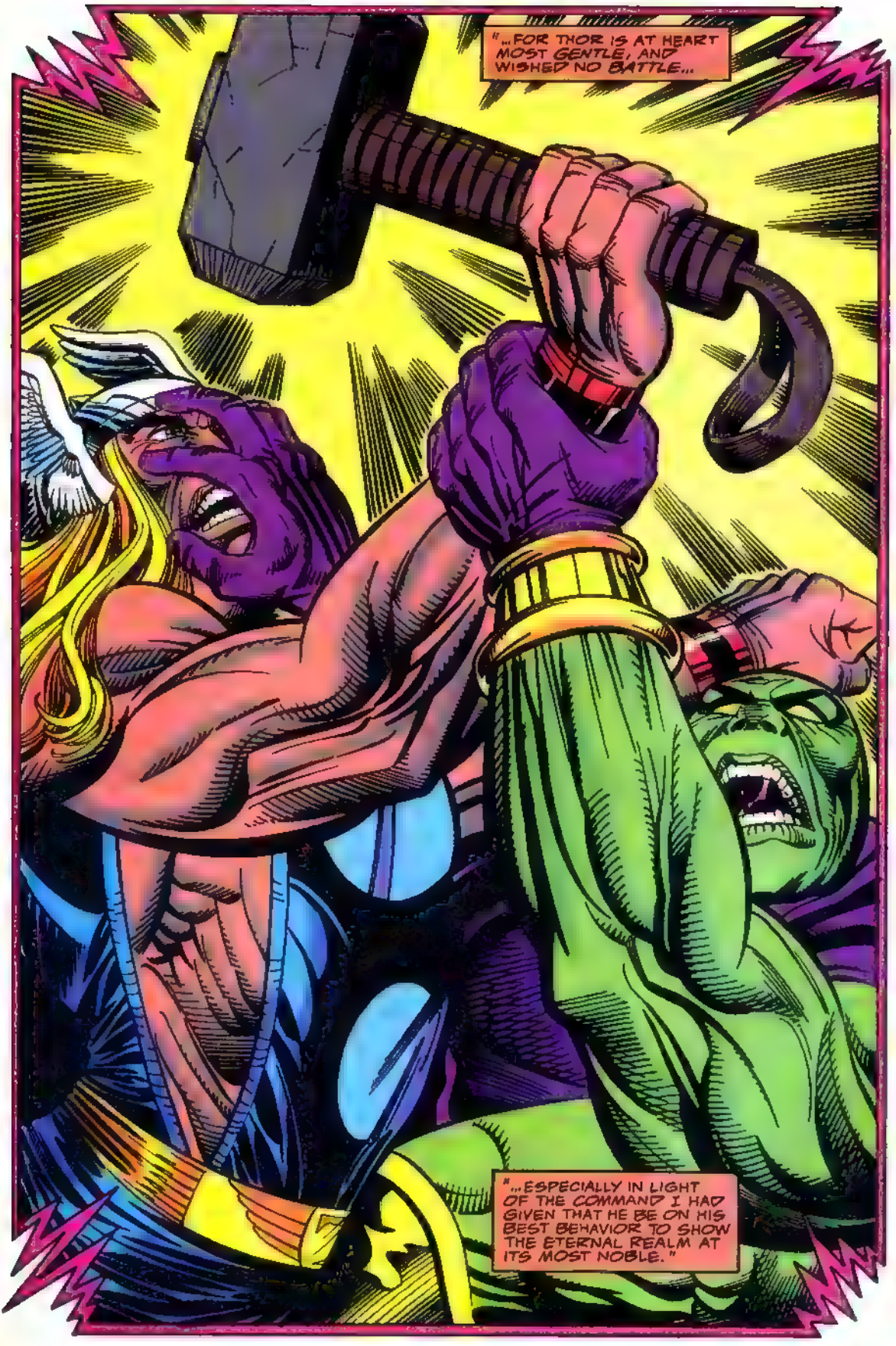

"...WHEREVER THE STARS HAVE TAKEN HIM!"

WELL SPOKE, VOLSTAGG!
IT GLADDENS ME TO FIND YOU SO CONCERNED THAT MY SON IS WELL FED.
I AM CONCERNED THAT EVERY-ONE IS WELL FED,..
...MYSELF IN PARTICULAR.
ALL-FATHER, THE THOUGHTS OF GRIM HOGUN ARE SHARED BY ALL. THE THUNDERER'S ABSENCE SEEMS CONSPICUOUS.
PERHAPS YOU WOULD FAVOR US WITH A TALE OF THOR, SO WE MIGHT BE REMINDED OF OUR WAYFARING PRINCE.
A TALE, BALDER? I SUPPOSE 'TWOULD BE FITTING ENOUGH.
MY SON'S ADVENTURES IN ASGARD AND MID-GARD ARE MANY.
AYE, A TALE OF THOR'S MIGHT!
HIS WARRIOR'S PROWESS!
HIS FIERCE HEART!
NAY. SURELY YOU HAVE HEARD SUCH YARNS A THOUSAND TIMES OVER.
INSTEAD I SHALL GIVE YOU A TALE OF ANOTHER TIME WHEN THOR QUESTED AT MY BEHEST, THOUGH HE WAS BUT A YOUTH.
A BARE STRIPLING HE WAS...


"...LEAN OF LIMB YET STOUT OF HEART. MY BREAST SWELLED WITH PRIDE AT THE SIGHT OF HIM. HE HAD CAST AWAY THE TRAPPINGS OF CHILDHOOD, AND STOOD READY TO TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AT MY SIDE.
"BUT BECAUSE OF HIS SLIGHT YEARS, HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE LANDS AND PEOPLES UNDER MY DOMINION. HE KNEW ASGARD NOT.
"SO I BADE HIM RIDE FORTH AND SEEK OUT THE GOLDEN REALM'S WONDERS, SO THAT HE MIGHT RETURN TO ME ALL THE WISER. AND TO BE CERTAIN THAT IN HIS TRAVELS NEVER TO BRING DISGRACE TO ETERNAL ASGARD
"THOR MOUNTED HIS FAVORED STEED WITHOUT HESITATION...
"...AND GALLOPED ACROSS THE PLAIN OF IDA...
"...EAGER FOR THE EXPERIENCES AWAITING HIM."


"THOR'S JOURNEYS RANGED FAR. HE TRAVERSED ALFHEIM, HOME TO THE LIGHT ELVES, AND PAUSED AT THE SHORE OF THE SEA OF MARMORA.
"THERE HE CONVERSED WITH A SPRIGHTLY UNDINE, WHO SANG HIM SOFT SONGS OF THE SEA WITH A VOICE LIKE THE FOAMING SURF.
"SKIRTING THE FORESTS OF ENCHANTMENT AND SIGURD, AND CROSSING THE BOILING PLAIN, THOR PASSED INTO NIDAVELLIR, HOME TO THE DWARVES, AND THENCE INTO THE SKORNHEIM MOUNTAINS.
"THERE HE BEHELD FORBIDDING SKORNHEIM STRONGHOLD, ITS FIRE-BLACKENED WALLS DATING TO OUR ANCIENT WARS WITH SURTUR'S HORDES.
"EVEN TO THE ROOTS OF YGGDRASIL, THE ASH THAT BINDS TOGETHER THE NINE WORLDS, HE TRAVELED.
"THERE HE LISTENED TO THE FAR-OFF BLEATING OF THE GOAT HEIDRUN, WHO WANDERS THE WORLD TREE'S BRANCHES.
"THESE THINGS AND A HUNDRED OTHERS THOR WITNESSED. EACH COMMITTED TO MEMORY UNTIL HE KNEW ALL ASGARD AS HE KNEW HIMSELF.

"FINALLY, THE PRINCE TURNED TOWARD HIS DISTANT HOME, MANY DAYS HENCE.
"CUTTING THROUGH A PASS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF VANAHEIM, HE CAME ACROSS A POND OF PRISTINE BEAUTY AND ALLOWED HIS MOUNT TO DRINK.
"THOR TOOK NO NOTICE OF ANOTHER AT THE POND'S SHORES--A TROLL WHO LAPPED AT THE WATERS LIKE A BEAST.
"THE TROLL, BEING A TROLL, WAS THICK OF FRAME AND FOUL OF MOOD."
YOU THERE!
THE WATER IS MINE, WHELP, NOT FOR THE LIKE OF A SCRAWNY GODLING!
BE ON YOUR WAY, LEST I LOSE MY TEMPER AND BEAT YOU!
SUCH INSULT!
NONE DARE SPEAK TO THOR SO!
SAY THE THUNDERER SMOTE HIM HEARTILY!
NAY, FELLOWS.


"...FOR THOR IS AT HEART MOST GENTLE, AND WISHED NO BATTLE...
"...ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE COMMAND I HAD GIVEN THAT HE BE ON HIS BEST BEHAVIOR TO SHOW THE ETERNAL REALM AT ITS MOST NOBLE."

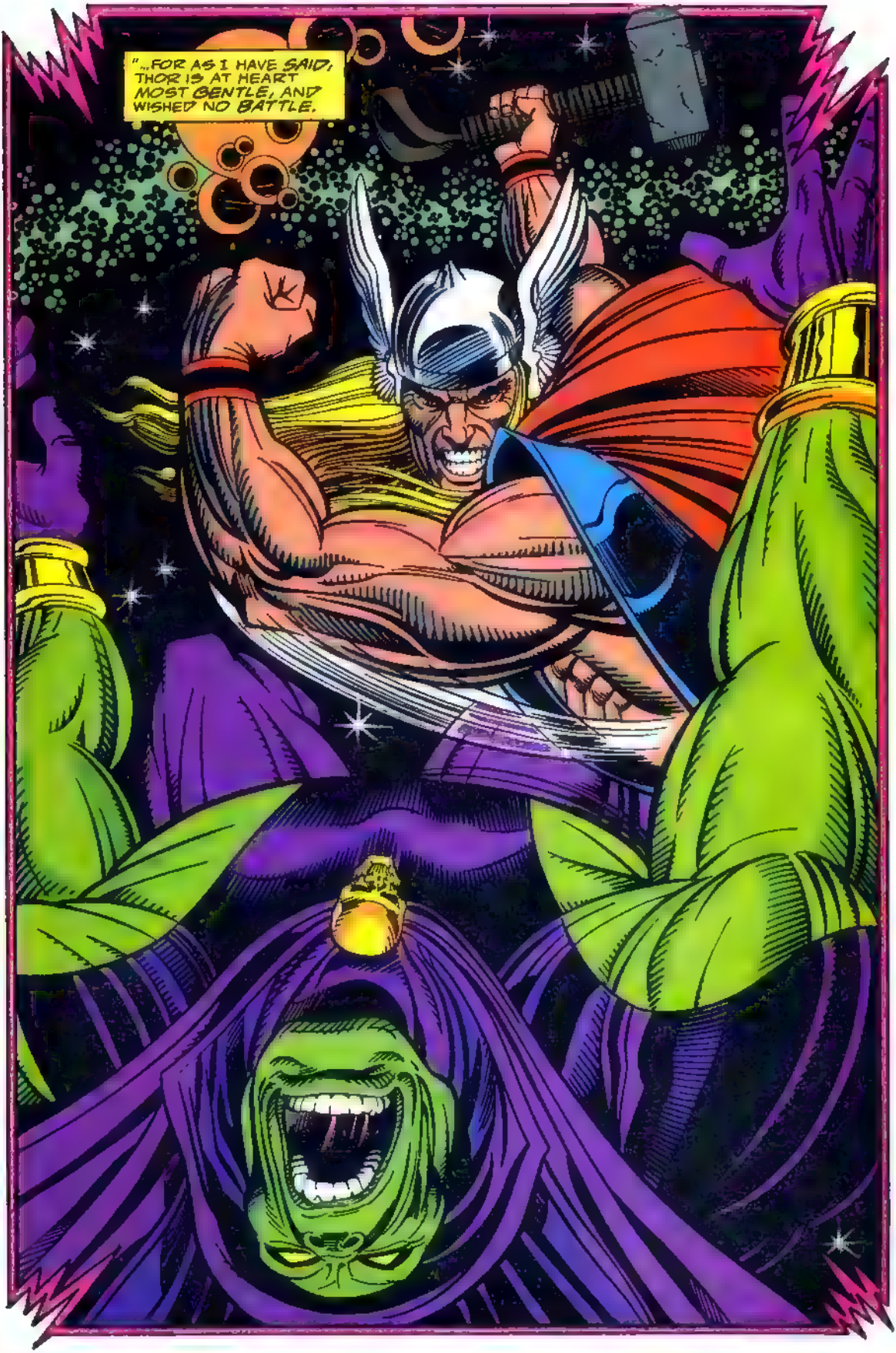
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, MY FRIEND, I'M SURE.
THE WATER CAN BELONG TO NO ONE.
I AM GARRG. I WAS HERE FIRST.
THIS IS MY WATER.
"RATHER, HE IGNORED THE BRAZEN THREAT AND STROVE TO REASON WITH THE TROLL, WHO, BEING A TROLL, WAS A SIMPLE BRUTE."
THE WATER SHOULD BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. SURELY YOU WOULD NOT BEGRUDGE MY TIRED STEED--
NAY.
MY WATER.
ALL MINE.
I AM BOUND FOR HOME AFTER TOURING ASGARD AT MY FATHER'S REQUEST.
'TWOULD BE AN EASIER JOURNEY WERE I AND MY MOUNT TO HAVE RESPITE HERE.

I CARE NOTHING FOR YOU OR YOUR JOURNEY, GOLDEN-TRESSED FOP!
I AM MORE LIKELY TO EAT YOUR HORSE, AND YOU AS WELL, IF ANY MEAT CLUNG TO YOUR BONES!
LEAVE NOW, BEFORE I SATE MY HUNGER!
SURELY THOR COULD NOT TURN HIS CHEEK TO SUCH OFFENSE.
AYE, HERE BE THE BRAWL!
SAY OUR PRINCE SHOWED THE LOUT NO MERCY.
NAY, STOUT FRIENDS..

"... FOR THOR IS AT HEART MOST GENTLE, AND WISHED NO BATTLE.

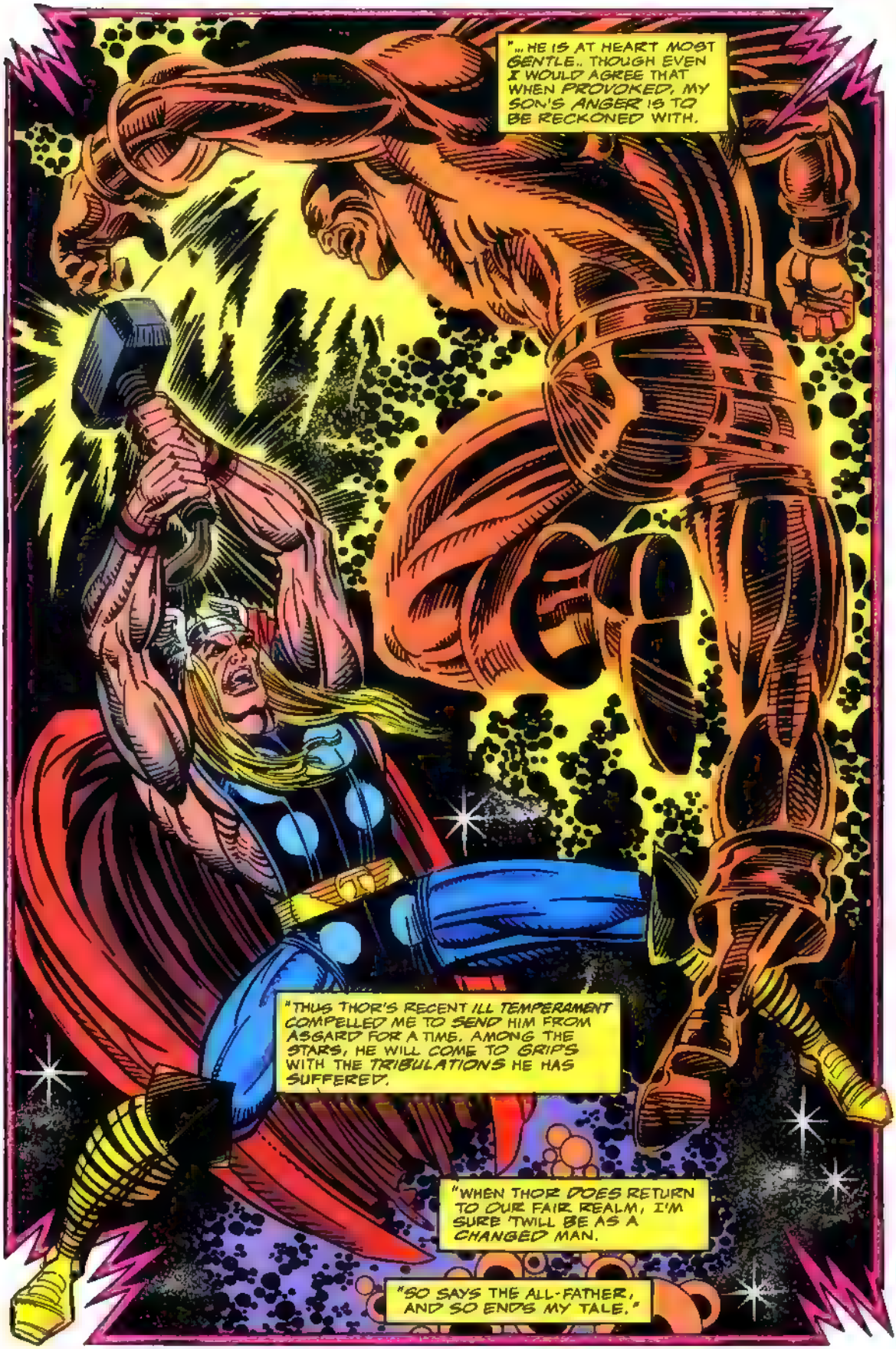
"RATHER, HE FORGAVE THE TROLL HIS TRANSGRESSION AND SOUGHT AMITY BETWEEN THEM. BUT THE TROLL, BEING A TROLL, WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT."
I WILL FORGET YOUR ACTION, RUDE THOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN.
LET US ACT PEACEFULLY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.
NAY, ASGARDIAN, WE MUST FIGHT... UNLESS YOU BE A COWARD!
I AM NO COWARD, BUT THERE IS SCANT CAUSE FOR US TO STRUGGLE.
THE WATER. WE MUST FIGHT OVER THE WATER.
TO WHAT END? THE WATER IS NOT YOURS, JUST AS 'TIS NOT MINE.
LOOK YOU HERE. ATTEND ME
SHOULD YOU TRY TO GRASP THE WATER...
"...AND MAKE IT YOURS BY HOLDING IT TIGHTLY, DOES IT NOT TRICKLE 'TWIXT YOUR FINGERS.
"...AND LEAVE YOU WITH NOTHING?

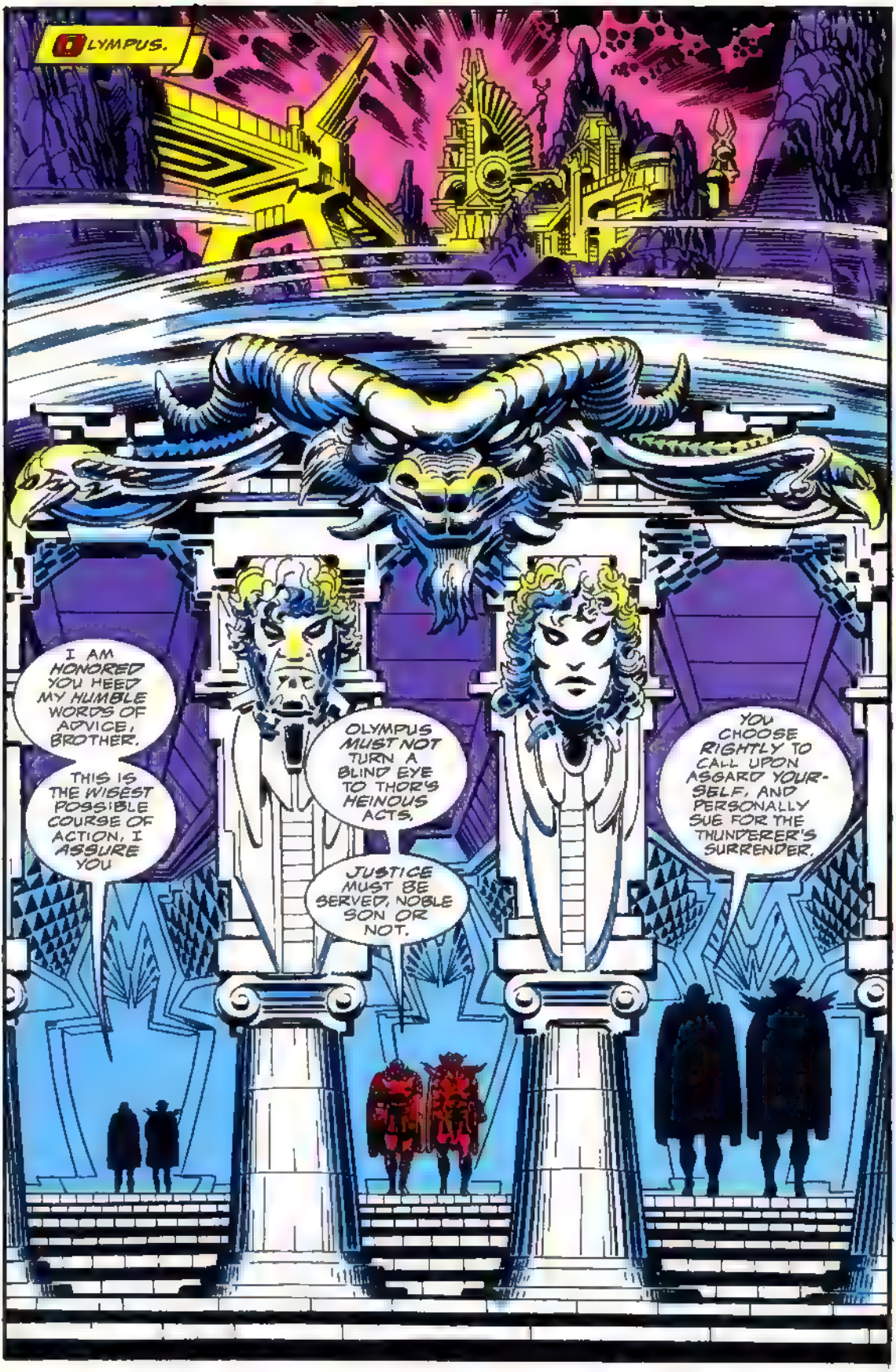
YOU SEE? HOW CAN A THING BE YOURS IF YOU CANNOT EVEN HOLD IT?
STOP CONFUSING ME!
IT COULD NOT BE SO!
THE TROLL IS PLAINLY MAD!
TELL US MJOLNIR FLEW SWIFT AND TRUE!
AGAIN MY ANSWER IS NAY

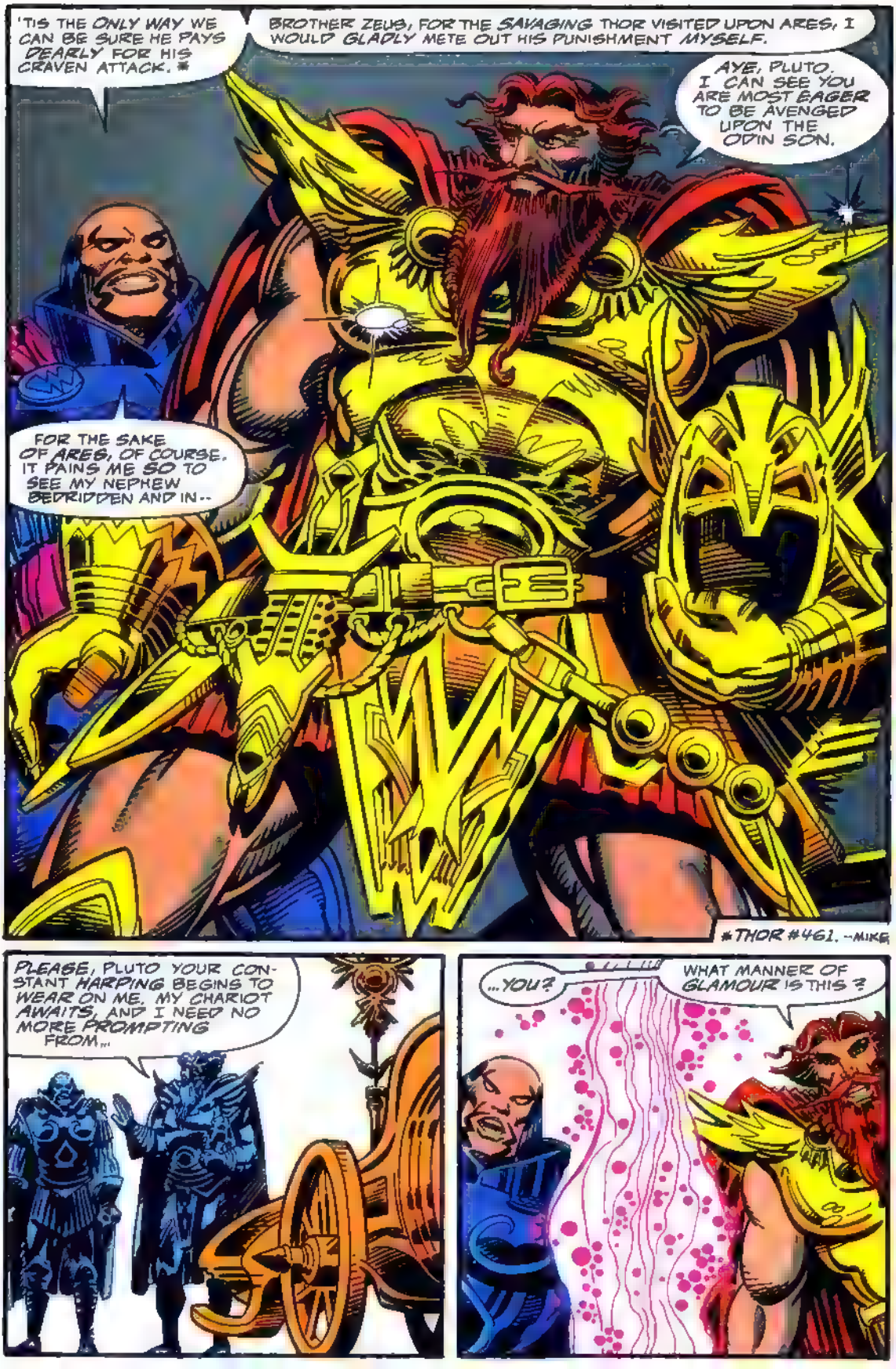

"...FOR AS I HAVE SAID, THOR IS AT HEART MOST GENTLE, AND WISHED NO BATTLE.

"RATHER, HE REINED HIS TEMPER, DEEMING IT BEST TO MOVE ON WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT. BUT THE TROLL, BEING A TROLL, PRESSED HIM."
'TIS OBVIOUS YOU ARE NOT A REASONABLE CREATURE, SO I THINK IT WISEST WE PART COMPANY.
YOU GO NOWHERE UNTIL I GIVE YOU LEAVE.
I WOULD KNOW OF THE WATER, IF 'TIS NOT MINE, AND 'TIS NOT YOURS... THEN WHOSE IS IT?
I HAVE TOLD YOU, 'TIS NO ONE'S POSSESSION.
NOW TROUBLE ME NO MORE. I DESIRE TO DEPART WITHOUT STRIFE
NAY! THE WATER MUST BELONG TO SOMEONE!
TELL ME!
VERY WELL, SINCE YOU INSIST UPON AN ANSWER.
I SUPPOSE IF THE WATER BELONGS TO ANY, IT BELONGS TO MY FATHER.
AND WHO IS YOUR FATHER?
HE WHO COUNTS ALL ASGARD AS HIS DOMAIN.
MY FATHER IS ODIN.

ODIN.
ODIN, WHOSE BOOTED HEEL HAS EVER BEEN ON THE NECKS OF MY PEOPLE, FORCING US TO DWELL IN DANK, DARK CAVERNS. ODIN, WHOSE WARRIORS HARRY US FOR SPORT AND TREAT US LITTLE BETTER THAN BEASTS.
OH, WELL I KNOW ODIN...
...AND I SPIT UPON HIM.
ENOUGH!
MUCH HAVE I ENDURED, BUT I WILL BROOK NO MORE!
YOUR AFFRONTS TO ME I TOLERATED, FOR I AM A PRINCE AND MUST BE ABOVE SUCH PETTY TAUNTS.
BUT NO ONE SPEAKS THUSLY OF FATHER ODIN!
TELL US MORE, ALL-FATHER!
THOR SOUNDLY THRASHED THE SCOUNDREL, DID HE NOT?
SLEW HIM, EVEN?
I SUSPECT THERE IS ONE TROLL WHO IS NOW MINDFUL OF HIS MANNERS.
BUT THOR SLAY HIM? ASSUREDLY NOT NEED I REMIND YOU...


"... HE IS AT HEART MOST GENTLE.. THOUGH EVEN I WOULD AGREE THAT WHEN PROVOKED, MY SON'S ANGER IS TO BE RECKONED WITH.
"THUS THOR'S RECENT ILL TEMPERAMENT COMPELLED ME TO SEND HIM FROM ASGARD FOR A TIME. AMONG THE STARS, HE WILL COME TO GRIPS WITH THE TRIBULATIONS HE HAS SUFFERED.
"WHEN THOR DOES RETURN TO OUR FAIR REALM, I'M SURE 'TWILL BE AS A CHANGED MAN.
"SO SAYS THE ALL-FATHER, AND SO ENDS MY TALE."


OLYMPUS.
I AM HONORED YOU HEED MY HUMBLE WORDS OF ADVICE, BROTHER.
THIS IS THE WISEST POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION, I ASSURE YOU
OLYMPUS MUST NOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO THOR'S HEINOUS ACTS,
JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOBLE SON OR NOT.
YOU CHOOSE RIGHTLY TO CALL UPON ASGARD YOURSELF, AND PERSONALLY SUE FOR THE THUNDERER'S SURRENDER.


'TIS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SURE HE PAYS DEARLY FOR HIS CRAVEN ATTACK. *
BROTHER ZEUS, FOR THE SAVAGING THOR VISITED UPON ARES, I WOULD GLADLY METE OUT HIS PUNISHMENT MYSELF.
AYE, PLUTO. I CAN SEE YOU ARE MOST EAGER TO BE AVENGED UPON THE ODIN SON.
FOR THE SAKE OF ARES, OF COURSE. IT PAINS ME SO TO SEE MY NEPHEW BEDRIDDEN AND IN--
* THOR #461. --MIKE
PLEASE, PLUTO YOUR CONSTANT HARPING BEGINS TO WEAR ON ME. MY CHARIOT AWAITS, AND I NEED NO MORE PROMPTING FROM...
...YOU?
WHAT MANNER OF GLAMOUR IS THIS ?

FATHER ZEUS...
...HELP ME.
NEXT ISSUE: THE THOR-DRAX CONFRONTATION CONCLUDES IN WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #21. THEN BE BACK HERE IN 30 AS THE VALKYRIE RETURNS, AND SIF BATTLES PLUTO!

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WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
DRAX
THE DESTROYER
VS.
THE MIGHTY
THOR
TOM GRINDBERG '95

WAR IS A SERIES OF CATASTROPHES THAT RESULTS IN A VICTORY... GEORGES CLEMENCEAU
FIFTY MILES ABOVE THE PLANET PARADISE OMEGA.
THE GOD AND THE BRUTE
DRAX'S BUDDY, THE HULK, SAY STOP HAMMER MAN.
SO THAT'S WHAT THE DESTROYER'S GOING TO DO!
JIM STARLIN STORY
TOM GRINDBERG PENCILS
BOB ALMOND INKS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO-GUESS
AWAY FROM ME, BRUTE!
THOR IS ABOUT THE HOLY WORKS OF THE GODDESS!

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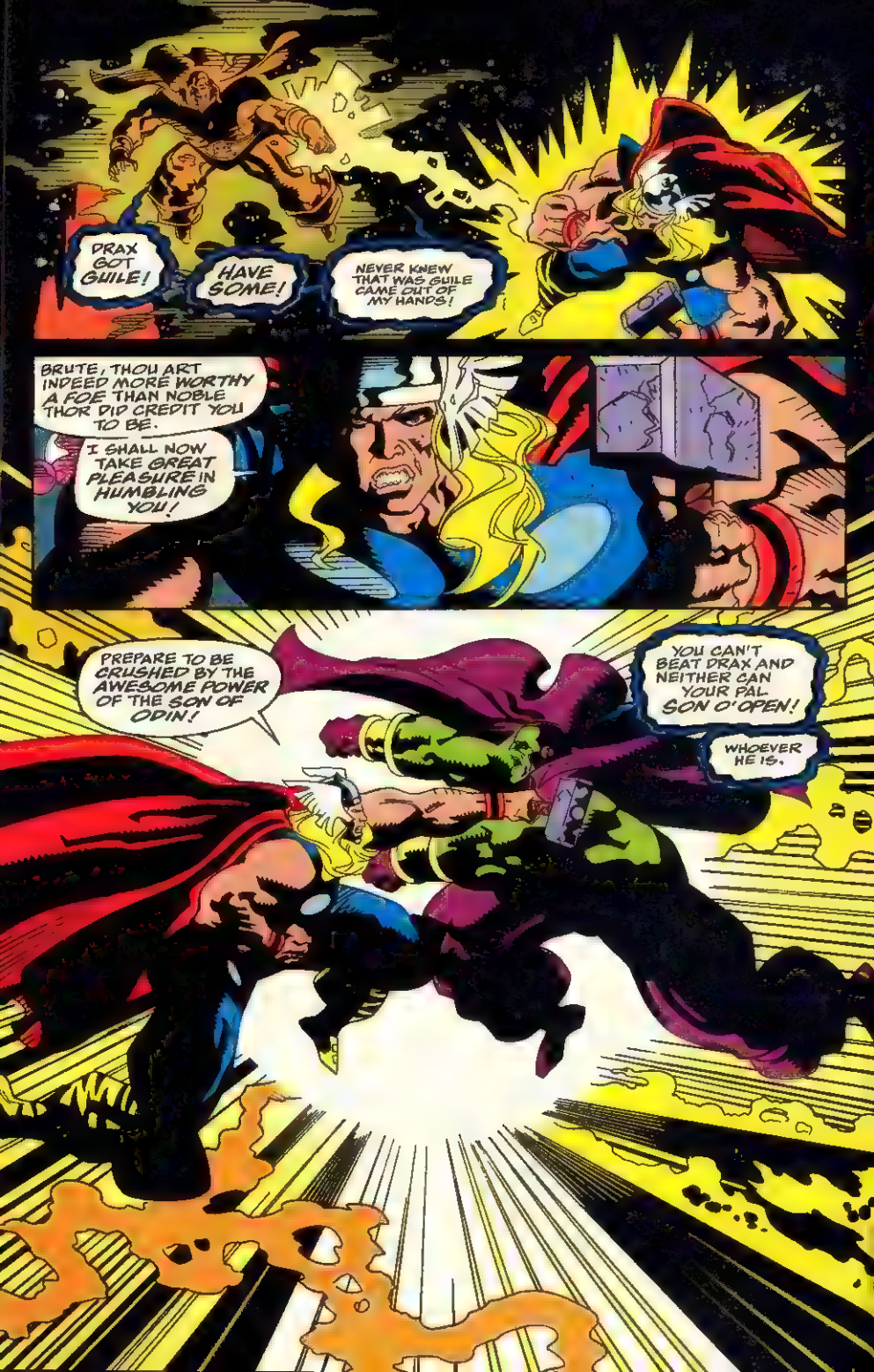
I SURE HOPE DRAX IS UP TO THE JOB.
TOGETHER, HE AND I PROBABLY COULD'VE CLEANED THOR'S CLOCK.
BUT WITH MY BEING KNOCKED ASIDE AND DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE BRAW... THE BIG GALOOT IS ON HIS OWN.
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A JETPACK RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
BECAUSE IF THOR GETS PLANETSIDE, HE'S GOT THE POWER TO INSURE A BAD OUTCOME FOR OUR SIDE IN THE DONNYBROOK THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN THE GOOD GUYS AND THE GODDESS'S RELIGIOUS ZOMBIES.
WHICH MEANS THAT THE GODDESS IS GOING TO SUCCEED IN WHATEVER CRAZY PLAN SHE'S UP TO AND THAT SPELLS TROUBLE FOR THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT NOW THERE ISN'T A DARN THING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I'M OUT OF THIS FIGHT.
AND I'M HEADING FOR A BIG FALL.
A GOD-AWFULLY BIG FALL!

LUMBERING BUFFOON, THOU WOULD DARE PIT THY MORTAL STRENGTH AGAINST AN ASGARDIAN WARRIOR BORN??
THOU SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS ARROGANT PRESUMPTION!
WHO'S THIS THOU?
YOU WOULD ALSO MOCK ME?!
IN TRUTH THY STUPIDITY BORDERS ON THE SUICIDAL, BEHEMOTH!
DEPART MY PRESENCE IMMEDIATELY, HULKING CRETIN, BEFORE ANGER MAKES MIGHTY THOR FORGET HE FACES A MERE MORTAL!

SO SHALL FALL ALL WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THE THUNDER GOD!
THEY SHALL BE CRUSHED BENEATH MJOLNIR!
NOW OTHER ENEMIES AWAIT MY WRATH.
INVADERS ON YONDER PARADISE OMEGA NEED BE DEALT WITH.
THEY TOO SHALL SUFFER MY RIGHTEOUS MIGHT!
NONE SHALL BE...
HE'S BACK!

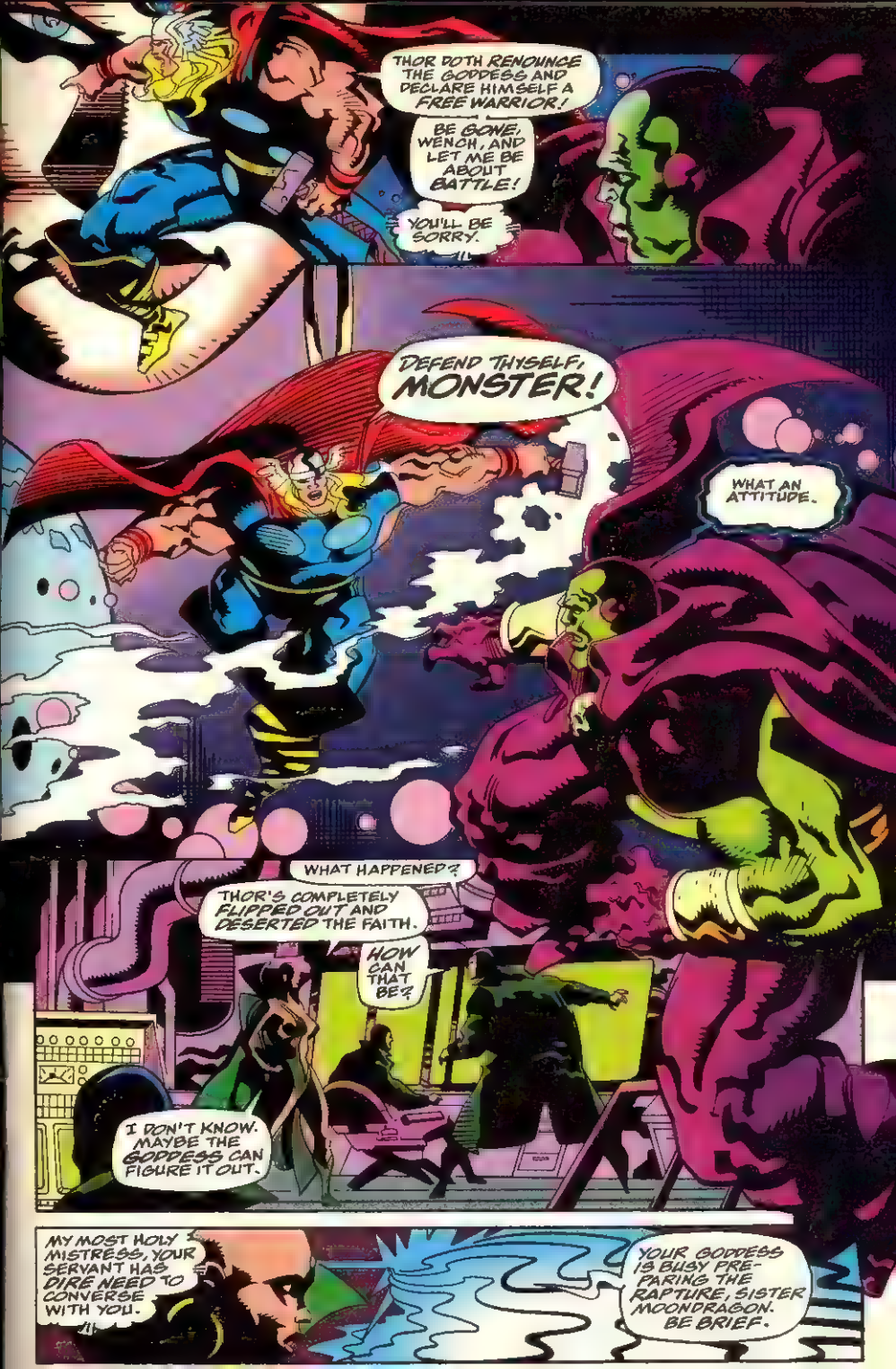
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU?
ONE THAT DON'T ALWAYS GET LOST WHEN TOSSED, BIRDHEAD!
NOW DRAX POUND YOUR WINGS FLAT!
DRAX SHOW YOU HE'S AS TOUGH AS ANY SISSY IN A FUNNY HAT!
ENOUGH!
I WOULD HAVE SPARED YOU MY FULL AND JUST RAGE BUT YOU FOOLHARDILY RETURNED FOR FURTHER PUNISHMENT!
SO BE IT!
LONG-HAIRED DUDE TALKS AWFULLY FUNNY.
TALKS TOO MUCH, TOO.

HE OUGHT TO PUNCH MORE AND JABBER LESS!
TRUE ENOUGH.
BUT A BLOW IS ONLY EFFECTIVE IF IT DOTH FIND ITS MARK!
AND BATTLES ARE WON BY MORE THAN MERE BRUTE STRENGTH!
KA-TAK KA-TAK KA-TAK
SOMETIMES MYSTIC GUILE AND STRATEGY ARE CALLED FOR!

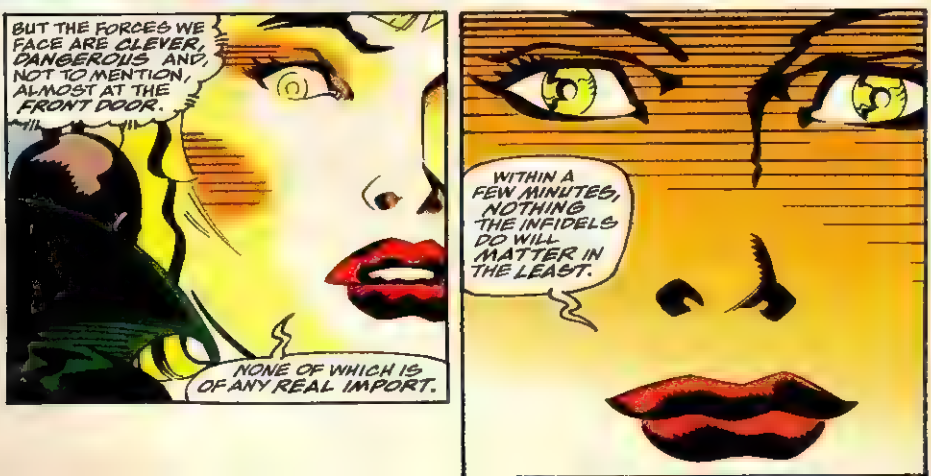

DRAX GOT GUILE!
HAVE SOME!
NEVER KNEW THAT WAS GUILE CAME OUT OF MY HANDS!
BRUTE, THOU ART INDEED MORE WORTHY A FOE THAN NOBLE THOR DID CREDIT YOU TO BE.
I SHALL NOW TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN HUMBLING YOU!
PREPARE TO BE CRUSHED BY THE AWESOME POWER OF THE SON OF ODIN!
YOU CAN'T BEAT DRAX AND NEITHER CAN YOUR PAL SON O'OPEN!
WHOEVER HE IS.

THOR, WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR STRENGTH!
YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO PARADISE OMEGA TO DEFEND THE CATHEDRAL.
I BE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED, SISTER MOONDRAGON.
IN AN ENDEAVOR THAT IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME AND ENERGY.
HIYA, BALD LADY.
REMEMBER DRAX?
EVEN YOUR FABLED FIGHTING PROWESS WILL NOT WIN OUT AGAINST DRAX'S LIMITLESS STRENGTH.
WHILE HE POSSESSES THE POWER INFINITY GEM THE DESTROYER IS PHYSICALLY UNBEATABLE!
POUND ON HIM ALL YOU LIKE AND HE'LL JUST KEEP SUB-CONSCIOUSLY TAPPING INTO THE GEM'S ENERGY RESEVOIRS AND GET STRONGER!
THOR DOTH NOT CARE! HE SHALL YET BEST THIS TITAN!
LIGHTEN UP THOR! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SMARTER THAN THAT WALKING PUNCHING BAG YOU'RE FIGHTING!
LOSE THAT BLOCKHEAD AND GET YOUR TAIL PLANET-SIDE. IT'LL BE EASY TO DO.

I HAVE ENGAGED THIS TROLLISH BARBARIAN IN RIGHTEOUS COMBAT!
THOR SHALL DEFEAT HIM OR PERISH TRYING!
PIP'S A TROLL NOT DRAX.
DRAX BRAIN DAMAGED.
AS TEMPORAL HEAD OF THE GODDESS'S CHURCH, I ORDER YOU TO BREAK OFF THIS FUTILE CONFRONTATION!
YOU WOULD DARE ORDER THOR THE GOD OF THUNDER ?!!
BEWARE, WENCH!
THROUGH ME SPEAKS THE GODDESS! OBEY HER WILL!
THOR'S HONOR DOTH COME BEFORE ANY OTHER COMMAND!
YOU HAVE SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO THE GODDESS! HER EDICTS MUST BE HEEDED!
YES, I DID... SWEAR ALLEGIANCE ...TO HER...
JUST AS I ONCE VOWED TO OBEY ODIN, YET HE PROVED UNWORTHY.
THOR DID SWEAR TO NEVER AGAIN BE ANYONE'S THRALL!
BITS AND PIECES.
THOR BE NO MAN OR WOMAN'S SLAVE!


THOR DOTH RENOUNCE THE GODDESS AND DECLARE HIMSELF A FREE WARRIOR!
BE GONE, WENCH, AND LET ME BE ABOUT BATTLE!
YOU'LL BE SORRY.
DEFEND THYSELF, MONSTER!
WHAT AN ATTITUDE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
THOR'S COMPLETELY FLIPPED OUT AND DESERTED THE FAITH.
HOW CAN THAT BE?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE THE GODDESS CAN FIGURE IT OUT.
MY MOST HOLY MISTRESS, YOUR SERVANT HAS DIRE NEED TO CONVERSE WITH YOU.
YOUR GODDESS IS BUSY PREPARING THE RAPTURE, SISTER MOONDRAGON. BE BRIEF.

MIGHTY THOR HAS LOST HIS FAITH WHEN WE MOST NEEDED HIS RAW POWER.
I FEARED HE MIGHT PROVE A POOR CONVERT.
WAS HIS BELIEF NOT STRONG ENOUGH?
NO. IT IS MORE A MATTER OF HIS ASGARDIAN SPIRIT BEING TOO POWERFUL TO TAME.
TO TAME?
AND THERE WAS ALSO THE FACT THAT HE IS CURRENTLY MENTALLY UNBALANCED.
QUITE INSANE, REALLY.
THEN HOW SHALL I NOW PROCEED, MY GODDESS?
AS PLANNED. DEFEND ME AND MY CATHEDRAL AT ALL COST.


BUT THE FORCES WE FACE ARE CLEVER, DANGEROUS AND, NOT TO MENTION, ALMOST AT THE FRONT DOOR.
NONE OF WHICH IS OF ANY REAL IMPORT.
WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, NOTHING THE INFIDELS DO WILL MATTER IN THE LEAST.

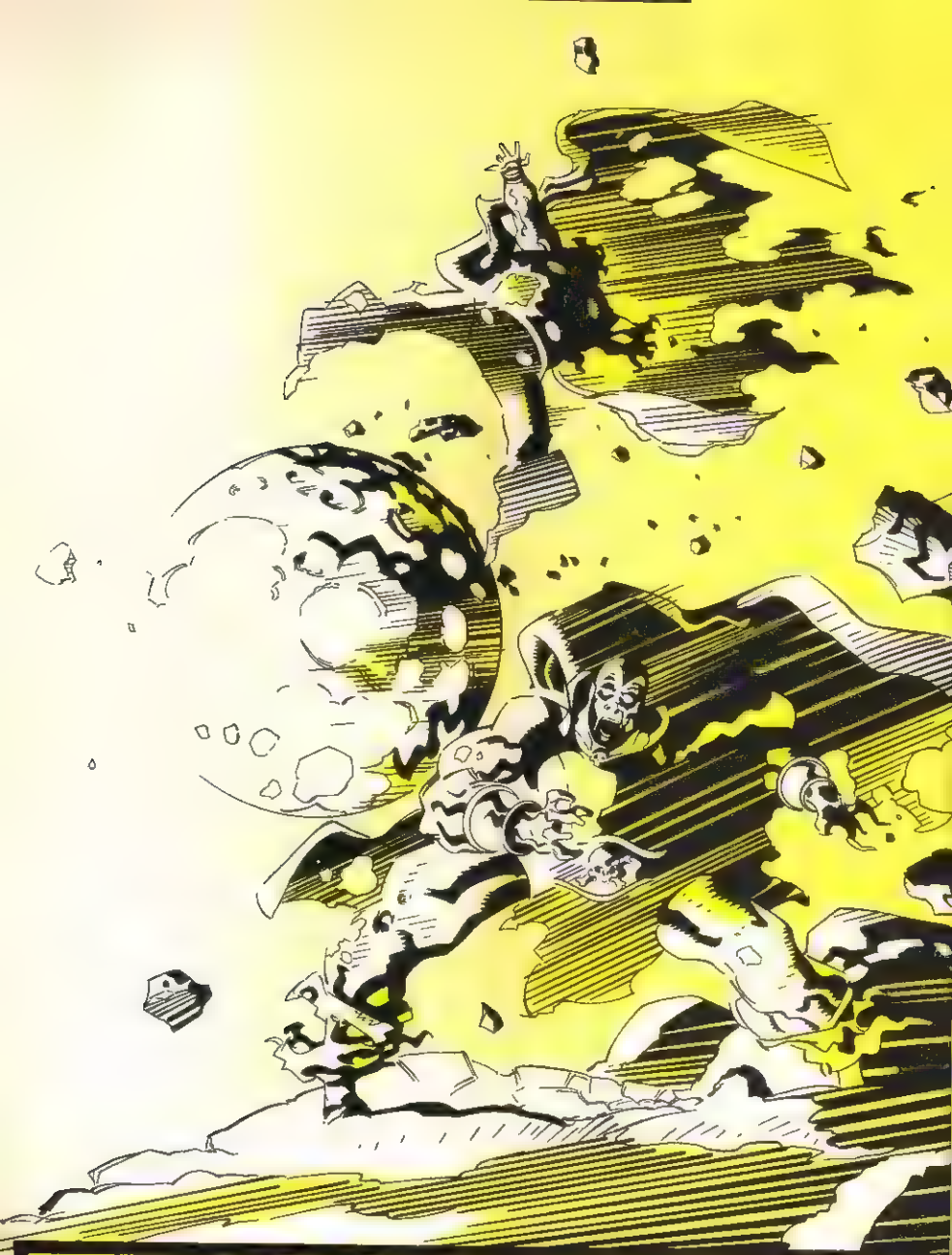
WITHIN A FEW MINUTES!
THE RAPTURE!
DIE, MONSTER!
MONSTER?
ME?

GOLDILOCKS WOULDN'T BE SO TOUGH WITHOUT HIS LIL' MALLET!
'TIS A HAMMER, BRUTE--AND I BE THOR!
ALL THAT SLUGGING DRAX LAY ON YOU I SURE HOPE YOU BE SORE!
HAVE SOME MORE!
NOW DRAX GET RID OF LIL' TOY AND POUND FUNNY TALKER TO PULP!
FOOLISH MORTAL, NONE BUT MIGHTY THOR IS CAPABLE OF LIFTING MYSTIC MJOLNIR

WANNA BET?!
ABANDON THIS VAIN EFFORT AND LET US RETURN TO OUR CONTEST OF ARMS.
DRAX CAN DO IT!
THOU TRULY ART A DIMWITTED CLOD, DRAX. ODIN DID CREATE MJOLNIR SO THAT ONLY HE WHO IS WORTHY MAY LIFT IT!
TO YOUR MASTER, MY HAMMER! BE NOT DECEIVED, DRAX. MJOLNIR RISES OF ITS OWN ACCORD— AS I BID IT RETURN TO MY HAND!
NOW CRAZY... HAMMER WANT TO... GO...
BUT... DRAX WILL... WILL...

ARRGH! IT FLIES FROM DRAX'S HAND!
DRAX CAN'T HOLD STUPID THING!
BUT NOW DRAX SEE HOW WELL BIRDHAT FIGHTS WITHOUT HIS HEAD-BANGER!
BE THAT SO?
THOR DOTH DOUBT IT.
DON'T MATTER NONE!
UNFAIR!
DRAX BEAT LONGHAIR WITH OR WITHOUT HAMMER!
HAVE AT THEE THEN, CRETIN!

HOLD!
WHAT BE YONDER BRILLIANCE?
IS IT JUST DRAX, OR...
...DID IT JUST GET HOTTER AROUND HERE?
MIDGARD'S STAR!
IT LOOK BIGGER.
'TIS.
IT DOTH DOUBLE IN SIZE AND IN ILLUMINATION!
PRETTY.
THE SUN DOTH GO NOVA!
REAL PRETTY.



HAVE WE GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION YET? IF WE HAVE AND YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT JUST HAPPENED, CHECK OUT *THE INFINITY CRUSADE* #5 ON SALE *NEXT WEEK!*

THEN THE *FOLLOWING WEEK* OUR STORY OF COSMIC DOUBLE DEALING AND GRANDEUR CONTINUES IN *THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES* #5!

TWO WEEKS LATER JOIN US BACK HERE FOR *WARLOCK* AND THE *INFINITY WATCH* #22 AND--

TRESPASSERS!

WATCHWORDS

Editor—Craig Anderson **Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust**
MARVEL COMICS GROUP—387 Park Avenue South—New York New York—10016

Attention Correspondents All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Infinity Watchers,

I have always had a soft spot for a character who claims to wield infinite power, so it will come as no surprise to hear that I've found the INFINITY trilogy and WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH interesting, to say the least. The back-up story in this year's FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL finally drove me to compile a list of the most powerful characters ever to appear in Marvel history.

1. The Living Tribunal
2. Anyone who has wielded all six Infinity Gems.
3. Eternity or Infinity (they tie)
5. The Celestials
6. The Goddess (when in command of her many cosmic containment units)
7. The Magus (when in command of his five cosmic containment units)
8. Kubik or Kosmos (another tie)
10. The Beyonder

I believe that Galactus, Odin, Zeus and many of the other characters who have claimed to be all-powerful to be insignificant when compared to the above.

Thanks for your time and a great comic.

Chris Armstrong
(Address withheld by request)

Well, Chris, them's fightin' words. And since you decided to withhold your address, we can see a lot of letters directed to us in the future!

Dear Jim and Craig,

I read WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #17, and I think that the new character, Maxam, should eventually join the Infinity Watch. Then, you should give each member of the Watch their own limited series or ongoing series. If you can only do one, though, I would really like to see Moondragon the most.

Curtis Duncan
1301 E. Oaks St.
Compton, CA 90221

Well, Curtis, we're not real sure where Maxam came from or even if he would want to join the Watch. Besides, if he did want to, where would he get an Infinity Gem from? Somehow, we don't think any of the current members would give up theirs without a fight.

Dear Watchwords,

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH is the best title out there. I never liked comics until I bought INFINITY WATCH #1.

Issue #17, with Maxam—wow! He is a treat! I hope he stays around.

I just wanted to mention that I love the new series THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES. Well, until Drax says a full sentence, make mine Marvel.

Kevin Greva
RR #5 Box 3B
Saskatoon, Sask.
Canada
S7R 3J8

Thanks for the praise, Kevin. We hope Maxam stays around, too.

Dear Watchwords,

I'm not trying to be picky, but isn't it about time for Pip to get a new costume? I mean, I know it's hot on Monster Island, but wouldn't he be cold at night?

By the way, I've collected almost every issue ever made of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH. There is just one question that has been bugging me for a while. When Pip teleports, where does he go? I know he ends up where he wants to go, but in between, where is he?

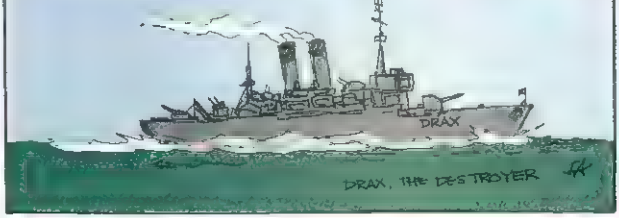
Anyway, Craig and Lynaire are doing great! So, until Moondragon grows hair, make mine Marvel!

Jon Brilliant
8 Ralston
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Well, Jon, you asked a pretty tough question. To be perfectly honest, we really don't know where he goes "in between". The powers of the Infinity Gems are a mystery. Look at Gamora, she doesn't even understand what her Gem even does, let alone how it works! Keep reading, Jon, and watch the Watch try to figure it all out!

NEXT ISSUE: Warlock is trying to escape the trap the Goddess set for him! And the U.N. Security Forces are all set to take over Monster Island! Only the Mole Man is still there and he couldn't be any threat to them...could he? Find out in thirty days! Be here!

Well, Drax fans, we have a special treat for you! Jack Abel, Marvel's marvelous proofreader, was inspired to jot down this view of Drax the Destroyer after reading an issue of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH. Thanks for sharing your unique brand of humor with us, Jack!



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WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH

AN INFINITY CRUSADE™ CROSSOVER

"THE INVASION OF MONSTER ISLE"

DIRECT EDITION

02211

THEY SAY THAT HENS DO CACKLE LOUDEST WHEN THERE IS NOTHING VITAL IN THE EGGS THEY'VE LAID. --AMBROSE BIERCE

SIEGE!

CAPT. SYLVESTER HAMMER, U.S. MARINE CORPS., TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED NATIONS' PEACE KEEPING FORCE, BELIEVES THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE BEST DAYS OF HIS LIFE.

I HEREBY CLAIM THIS ISLAND IN THE NAME OF THE U.N.!

AND THIS TIME WE'VE THE FIREPOWER TO KEEP IT!

SERGEANT, RADIO IN THAT WE HAVE SECURED MONSTER ISLE!

UN

UN

CREATOR/WRITER JIM STARLIN

ANGEL MEDINA PENCILS

BOB ALMOND INKS

JACK MORELLI LETTERS

JAN LAUGHLIN COLORS

CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO COLONEL

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MEANWHILE, AT ADAM WARLOCK'S CASTLE...

THE FOOLS!

WON'T THOSE ASININE U.N. OFFICIALS EVER LEARN? I SUPPOSE NOT.

BRING A GROUP OF POMPOUS JERKS TOGETHER, AND THEIR AVERAGE I.Q. NEVER RISES.

JUST BECAUSE MONSTER ISLAND IS ON THE PLANET'S *SURFACE* THEY THINK THE *MOLE MAN* SHOULD HAVE NO CLAIM TO IT.

THEY WOULD DENY ME EVEN THIS LITTLE *SUNSHINE!*

SUCH ARROGANCE!

SEEING THAT *WARLOCK* AND HIS *INFINITY WATCH* ARE AWAY, THE U.N. THINKS THEY CAN *WALTZ IN* AND *TAKE OVER!*

THOSE *SUN-BAKED MORONS* ARE ABOUT TO REALIZE THE *ERROR* OF THEIR *WAYS.*

THE *MOLE MAN* IS ALWAYS *PREPARED* FOR *TROUBLE!*

THE SPECIAL WEAPONS DIVISION OF SHIELD SAYS THIS HARDWARE WILL HANDLE EVEN THE TOUGHEST THUG IN WARLOCK'S LITTLE TERRORIST BAND!

WE NOW OWN THIS ROCK AND NO ONE'S RUNNING US OFF IT!

ESPECIALLY NOT SOME GREEN BIMBO.

ONCE WE'RE DUG IN, THE AVENGERS COULDN'T EVICT US!

SIR, I HAVE SENATOR MUNSON ON THE RADIO.

SENATOR, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OUR MISSION.

EXCELLENT WORK, CAPT. HAMMER. THE PRESIDENT WILL BE PLEASED.

AS ARE ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

PLAN ON ADDING SOME NEW MEDALS FOR BRAVERY TO YOUR COLLECTION, CAPTAIN.

ONCE WARLOCK RETURNS FROM HIS LATEST HEROIC ADVENTURE HE'S GOING TO FIND HE'S COUNTED AMONG THE HOMELESS!

I DOUBT HE WILL TAKE KINDLY TO THE SITUATION.

NOR WILL HIS UNRULY ASSOCIATES.

I RATHER SUSPECT EVEN DEAR ADAM WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP THEM IN LINE.

THE ROUTING OF THE U.N TROOPS WILL OUTRAGE THE WORLD'S LEADERS AND TENSIONS WILL HEIGHTEN.

A FINAL CONFRONTATION WILL BE INEVITABLE.

AND THUS IS SET THE STAGE FOR THE *ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION* OF ADAM WARLOCK!

OUT OF THE DARKNESS.

IN A REALITY ALIEN TO OUR OWN.

ADAM WARLOCK!

I CONFRONT THE INNER CORE OF THE GODDESS'S PSYCHE, HER MOST HIDDEN SELF.

BUT IT IS ALSO HER MOST VULNERABLE ASPECT.

WITHIN LIES MY ONLY HOPE OF FOILING HER MAD PLANS!

YET TO SUCCEED IN THIS QUEST, I MUST DELVE EVEN DEEPER.

FURTHER INTO HER SOUL I NEED JOURNEY.

FOR ONLY IN THIS REALM SO TOTALLY ALIEN TO ME CAN SALVATION BE FOUND.

BUT THIS TREASURE WILL ONLY BE GAINED IF I CAN AVOID LOSING MYSELF ALONG THE PATH.

TO CONTINUE ON, I MUST EMPATHIZE WITHOUT BEING CONSUMED.

UN

SIR, WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

IT'S THE BIG ENCHILADA HIMSELF-- THE MOLE MAN.

LOOKS LIKE THE SUBTERRANEAN SQUIRT WANTS TO POWWOW.

HANDS ON YOUR HEAD AND DOWN ON YOUR KNEES, SHORTY.

YOU'RE JESTING, OF COURSE.

I NEVER JOKE.

WHY DOESN'T THAT SUPRISE ME?

BUT WHAT I DO HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IS THAT YOU PEOPLE WOULD ACTUALLY RETURN FOR ANOTHER HUMILIATING DEFEAT!

IS THIS SOME KIND OF MASOCHISTIC STREAK YOU CAN'T CONTROL?

ANOTHER COMEDIAN LIKE THE LIME BROAD. SERGEANT, CUFF THIS WEASEL.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD NO SENSE OF HUMOR.

UN

UN

GAG HIM ALSO.

WHY DOES EVERY-ONE ON THIS ISLAND THINK THEY'RE JAY LENO?

SWAP!

WHAT?!

PERHAPS BECAUSE WE LEAD SUCH FUN EXISTENCES!

EARTH-QUAKE!

"NO, MERELY THE EMERGENCE OF ONE OF MY PET BEHEMOTHS I HAD BURIED AS SOON AS YOUR SHIP SHOWED ON THE HORIZON.

"YOU WOULD'VE THROWN MY ENTIRE PLAN OFF IF YOU'D DECIDED TO LAND AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION THAN YOU DID LAST TIME.

BUT YOU DIDN'T DISAPPOINT ME. YOU PROVED JUST AS PREDICTABLE AS I'D HOPED."

USE THE SPECIAL WEAPONS ON THAT MUTANT CRITTER!

FIRE!

???

RUN FOR IT!!

NO!

OUR WEAPONS ARE GEARED FOR THE WATCH—NOT THESE BIG LUGS!

YOU THINK YOU'RE PRETTY DARN CLEVER, DON'T YOU? WELL YOU'RE WRONG!

DEAD WRONG!

THERE'S AN EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT ONE OF US MIGHT SOON SUFFER THAT UNDESIRABLE CIRCUM-STANCE, CAPTAIN—

UN

~BUT I SINCERELY DOUBT IT WILL BE MYSELF!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

FROM THE DEPTHS, CAPTAIN. FROM THE DEPTHS.

UN

K-POW

KTHUD!

UN

EEEEEEYAH!

WHUMP

YOU--YOU POTBELLIED LITTLE SON OF A~

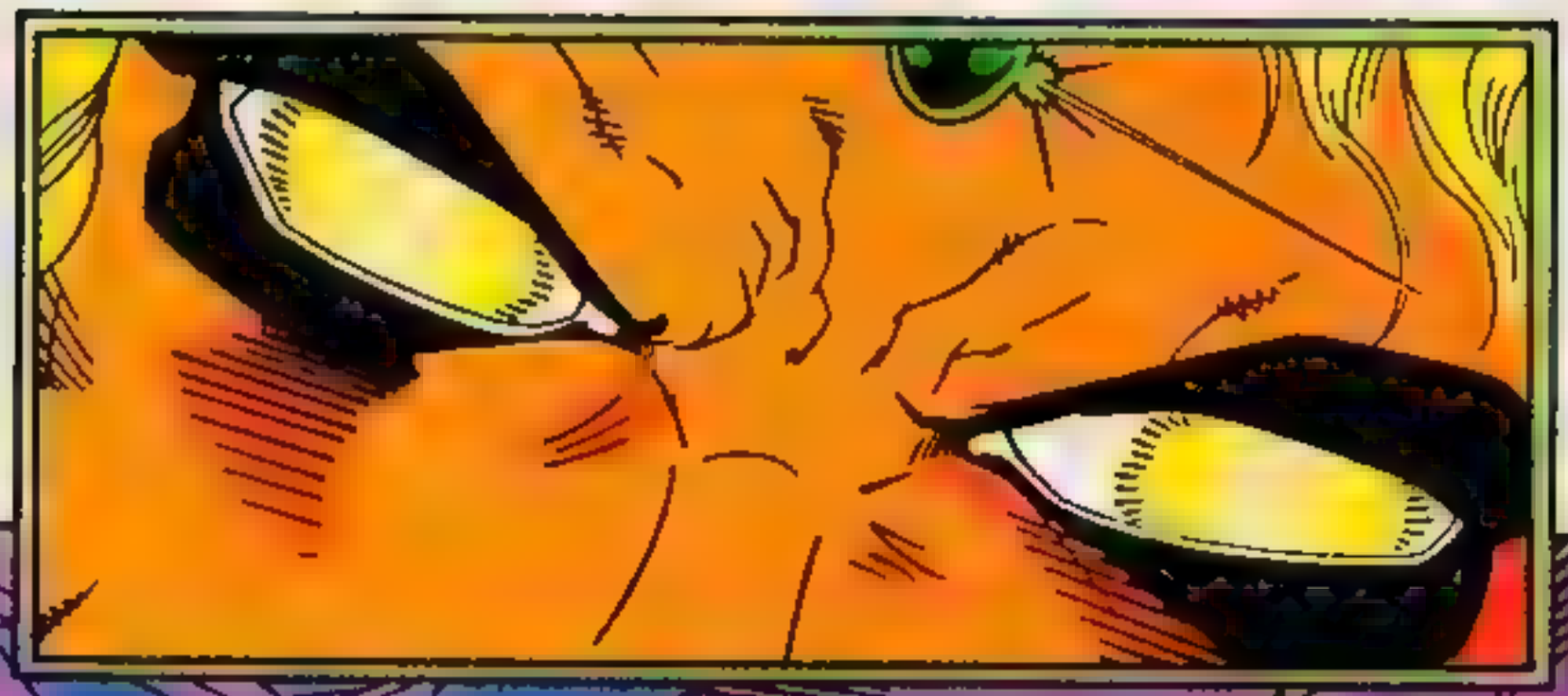
KUNT

UN

WHUNK!

K-THOW

SO MUCH FOR THIS PARTICULAR CONQUERING HERO.



THERE IT IS!

I'VE FINALLY REACHED IT!

THE GODDESS'S DESIRE!

SO CLOSED AND CONTAINED, MUCH LIKE THE GODDESS HERSELF.

COLD TO THE TOUCH.

WITHIN IT LIES HER INSANE INTENTION TO PURGE THE UNIVERSE OF ALL LIFE.

TO ELIMINATE ALL SIN BY ELIMINATING ALL SINNERS.

FOR ARE WE NOT ALL SINNERS?

HOW ELSE WOULD ONE GO ABOUT SUCH A TASK?

IT IS A NIGHTMARE SCENARIO I MUST STOP FROM COMING TO REALIZATION.

BUT AM EVEN I CAPABLE OF CIRCUMVENTING THE GODDESS AND HER COLLECTION OF COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS?

A QUESTION I'LL NEVER ANSWER LOITERING HERE.

SO LET THE QUEST CONTINUE!

THE UN BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY.

SENATOR, WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE DETACHMENT ON MONSTER ISLAND.

HAVE WE NOW? TOO BAD.

BILL, I THINK WE MADE A MISTAKE WITH THIS SENATOR MUNSON.

I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU, HILLARY.

I NEEDED HIS SUPPORT ON A BILL LAST MONTH.

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I APPOINTED HIM OUR SPECIAL LIAISON TO THE UN ON THIS MONSTER ISLAND SITUATION.

NOW IT APPEARS MUNSON HAS TAKEN OVER THE ENTIRE OPERATION WITHOUT ANYONE BATTING AN EYE.

EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE BACKING HIM 100%. YOU SHOULD GET SUCH COOPERATION FROM CONGRESS, LET ALONE THE UN.

HE NEVER SHOWED SUCH EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP ABILITY BACK IN THE SENATE.

BUT WHERE IS THAT LEADERSHIP TAKING US?

HE'S ALREADY TURNED WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A MATTER OF NEGOTIATION INTO A SHOOTING WAR.

THIS COULD PROVE TO BE BIG TROUBLE DOWN THE LINE.

SO HOW DO WE PUT THE BRAKES ON SENATOR MUNSON?

OFF THE COAST OF MONSTER ISLAND...

CAPTAIN!

THE AMPHIBIOUS CRAFTS FROM MONSTER ISLAND ARE PULLING TO PORT.

THANK YOU, SAILOR. CARRY ON.

BUT, SIR, IT LOOKS LIKE THE ENTIRE ASSAULT FORCE IS RETURNING WITH THE LAUNCHES.

THAT CAN'T BE!

GOOD LORD!

WE CAME.

WE SAW.

WE CONQUERED.

AND WE ENDED UP WITH A BATCH OF *NIFTY UNIFORMS* IN THE BARGAIN.

UN

UN

UN

DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE A BUNCH OF CATERWAULING HYENAS--

SOMEBODY GET ME SOME **CLOTHES!**

THE DARKENED CORE OF THE GODDESS'S DESIRES.

PASSIONS I HAVE FRUSTRATED OVER A DOZEN LIFETIMES BY DENYING MY FEMININE SIDE.

THAT STUPIDITY IS WHAT, IN THE LONG RUN, CREATED THE GODDESS.

AND NOW I PLAN TO THWART HER YEARNINGS ONCE AGAIN.

BUT TO ALLOW THE GODDESS HER WAY THIS TIME WOULD MEAN DESTRUCTION FOR ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE.

IT IS TOO HIGH A PRICE JUST TO RIGHT MY GENDER IMBALANCE.

SO, WITH THE HELP OF MY SOUL GEM, I MUST SEIZE CONTROL OF THE GODDESS'S BLACK HEART AND SAVE THE DAY.

I SHALL BEND THE GODDESS'S WILL WITH THE POWER OF MY OWN SPIRIT.

FORGIVE ME GODDESS.

ALREADY SHE RESISTS, SEEKS TO DEFY ME.

BUT I WILL OVERCOME HER DEFENSES, BRING HER UNDER CONTROL.

FOR I AM THE CENTRAL PERSONALITY IN THE TRILOGY THAT IS MYSELF.

THE GODDESS IS BUT MY SHADE, A MERE ASPECT OF ME.

YET STILL SHE CONTINUES TO RESIST MY WILL! HOW?!

OF COURSE! THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS AUGMENT HER STRENGTH.

CAN IT BE THAT HER SOUL IS NOW STRONGER THAN MY OWN?

IT IS! I CANNOT BREACH HER WALL OF RESOLUTION.

I CANNOT OVERPOWER THE GODDESS!

WHICH MEANS I CANNOT STOP HER FROM DESTROYING ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE!

AND BACK ON MONSTER ISLAND...

ONE OF MY MOLOID SUBJECTS APPEARS OVERLY AGITATED.

WHAT IS AMISS? MORE SOLDIERS?

SOMETHING IN THE SKY?

A JET?

NO?

THE SUN ITSELF?

IT DOES APPEAR RATHER LARGE TODAY.

OR IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

NO!

IT'S ACTUALLY GROWING IN SIZE!

OMIGOD!

JOIN US FOR THE CONCLUSION OF OUR COSMIC TALE OF INSANITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN--

THE INFINITY CRUSADE 6

ON SALE NEXT WEEK!!

Editor—Craig Anderson Assistant Editor—Lynaire Brust
MARVEL COMICS GROUP—387 Park Avenue South—New York New York—10016

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Craig and Lynaire,

Ah-ha! So Pip was the mysterious creature behind the abduction of Reed Richards in THE INFINITY CRUSADE #1. Of all the members of the Infinity Watch, his character has been explored the least since the debut of this title. With Warlock, Gamora and Moondragon out of the way for the time being, I'm glad Jim Starlin is getting some more of that wonderful character development in. I've always enjoyed reading about a smart-guy character like Pip who is more of a clown than an actual hero, so the next few issues of this mag promise to delight.

Which leads me to add my vote for Pip, Gamora and Thanos to each get their own limited series. We haven't seen the purple-skinned Titan since the end of THE INFINITY WAR, which in my opinion is too long for such a fascinating character. If he doesn't have it already, (and I still say it's him after the way he came up with such a convenient copy to fool the Magus with), give him the Reality Gem so Jim Starlin has an excuse to include him more often into this title.

Finally, I hope this remembrance on Drax's part of his past death at Moondragon's hands will be occurring sometime shortly after or during THE INFINITY CRUSADE. Hints are continually being dropped that such an occurrence is bound to occur in the near future, and I for one am interested to see the ramifications as well as the moral decision Moondragon will have to make after such a revelation.

James Evan
6621 Sutton Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

We know that you've probably already figured out who the holder of the Reality Gem is, James, but for those who haven't, we are making an announcement. The holder of the Reality Gem is...*Thanos*! Thanks to everyone who wrote in with guesses.

Dear Watchwords,

I just finished reading WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #18 and cannot believe what I read at the end of the letters page. Let me refresh your memory if I may be so bold. "How about a limited series for Pip or *Thanos*?" Pick up your eraser and put it directly at the question mark and move your hand in a violent up and down direction. Although you're probably sick of all my letters to bring back Thanos, I can't begin to tell you how happy I was to read that letters page. Let the dogs of war run wild at the command of the lover-of-Death himself. There has yet to be a more poweful super-villain to grace the pages of Marvel comics. Well, Galactus has held that title for as long as I can remember, but he is nowhere near as ingenious or insane as Thanos is. Thanks to Jim and the crew. As far as Pip's own book, I say fine, do that, too—as long as Thanos is in it. No offense, Pip.

Thanks for great reading

Wayne Corbett
58 Fair Harbor Drive
Patchogue, NY 11772

You've got a very persuasive manner, Wayne. We give. Look early next year for an action-packed *cosmic* Limited Series including Thanos!

Dear Craig and Lynaire,

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #18 has to rate as one of the most impressive issues of this series. "Power Play" seemed to play up all of the different tones that have been with this book since issue #1—action, humor, cosmic drama and more humor.

Jim Starlin's script was great. It shows pride and faith in the characters he created so many years ago. Yet, his final Infinity endeavor, THE INFINITY CRUSADE, will most likely become the best of the trilogy.

Warlock disappeared from this issue, off in the debut of WARLOCK CHRONICLES. Then Jim over-emphasized humor in this issue, causing me to laugh out loud in at least one scene. Being a mismatched team to start with, it was evident that humor would have to take a place in such a group, just like it did in tales of the original Fantastic Four. Yet, the Infinity Watch has two serious members (Adam and Gamora), one sarcastic telepath (Moondragon) and two bumblers (Drax the Destroyer and Pip the Troll).

Pip took the limelight in this story, as Pipman. His dialogue was funny all issue, pitted against the childish and playful Drax. When he screamed to Reed Richards, "Gotcha now, you Judas!" I thought that was hilarious. Maxam also should be a great character, and he should definitely become a permanent member of the Watch. I have a strange feeling that he's part of some villain's plan of world domination (Count Abyss, maybe?), but his powers and heart should prevail, leaving him an invaluable member of the team.

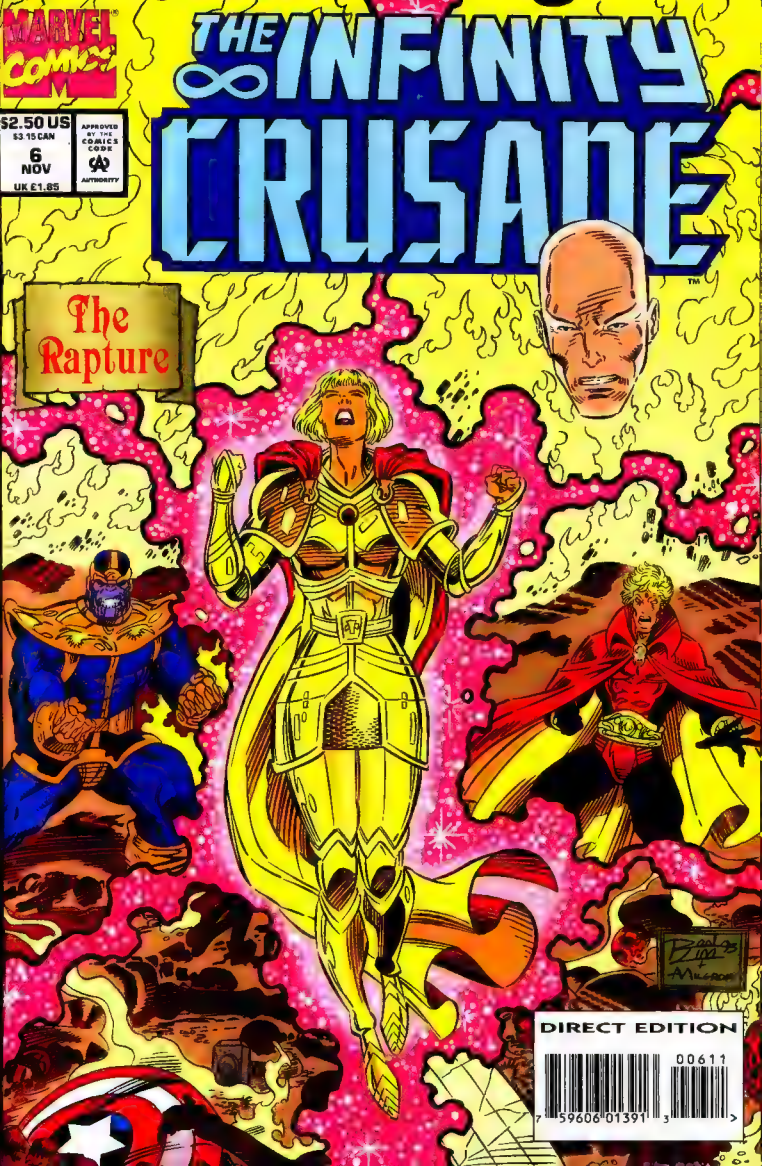
Angel Medina and Bob Almond pulled off their best illustrations yet. Angel's pencils, serious at times and clearly silly at others, were perfect to capture the feel of this title. His expressions are the key, though. He captured Pip and Drax's emotions wonderfully.

Anyway, keep up the good work. Next issue looks good, reintroducing Thanos to the fold. See you in thirty! By the way, nice logo!

Joey Marchese
PO Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083

We have to agree with you, Joey. Angel and Bob are a great team. After Tom Grindberg starts off the "Blood and Thunder" crossover with THOR, we'll be back in issue #25 with Angel and Bob doing what they do best in a giant sized spectacular! Check it out!

NEXT ISSUE: Continuing from the pages of THOR and SILVER SURFER—one of the most powerful sages of all! What happens when a Thunder God goes insane? Join Adam Warlock and the Silver Surfer when they find themselves in the battle of their lives—in thirty days!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The Rapture
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TRUE REPENTANCE IS TO CEASE FROM SINNING.
—AMBROSE OF MILAN
AND TO A BEAUTIFUL GEM SET AMONG TEN SMALLER COMPANION JEWELS, FLARING BRILLIANTLY IN THE MIDST OF THE DARK HEAVENS.
THE END IS UPON US. LET ALL WITHIN CREATION PREPARE FOR THE...
Rapture

JIM STARLIN — WRITER

RON LIM — PENCILS

AL MILGROM — INKER

JACK MORELLI — LETTERS

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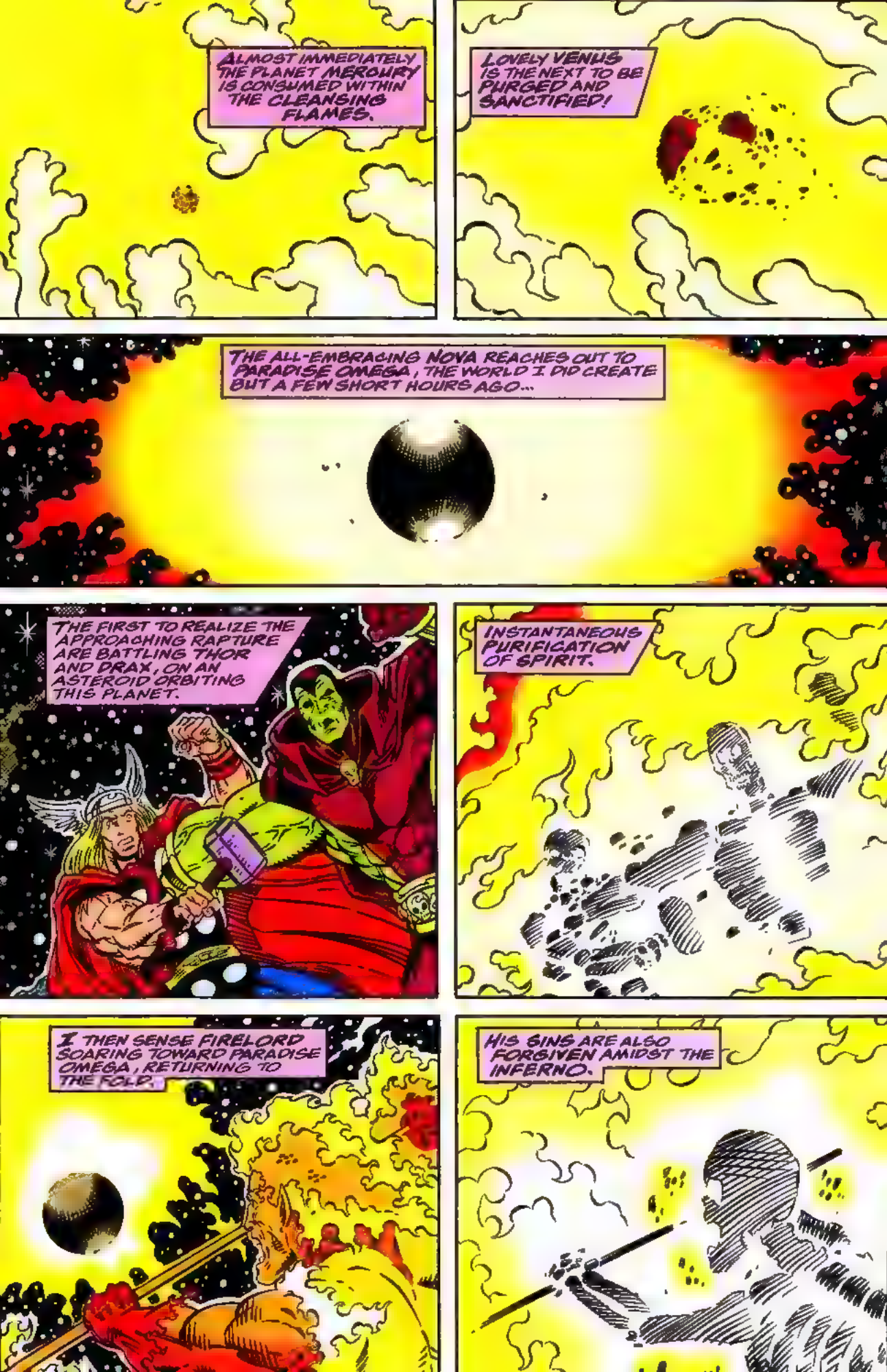
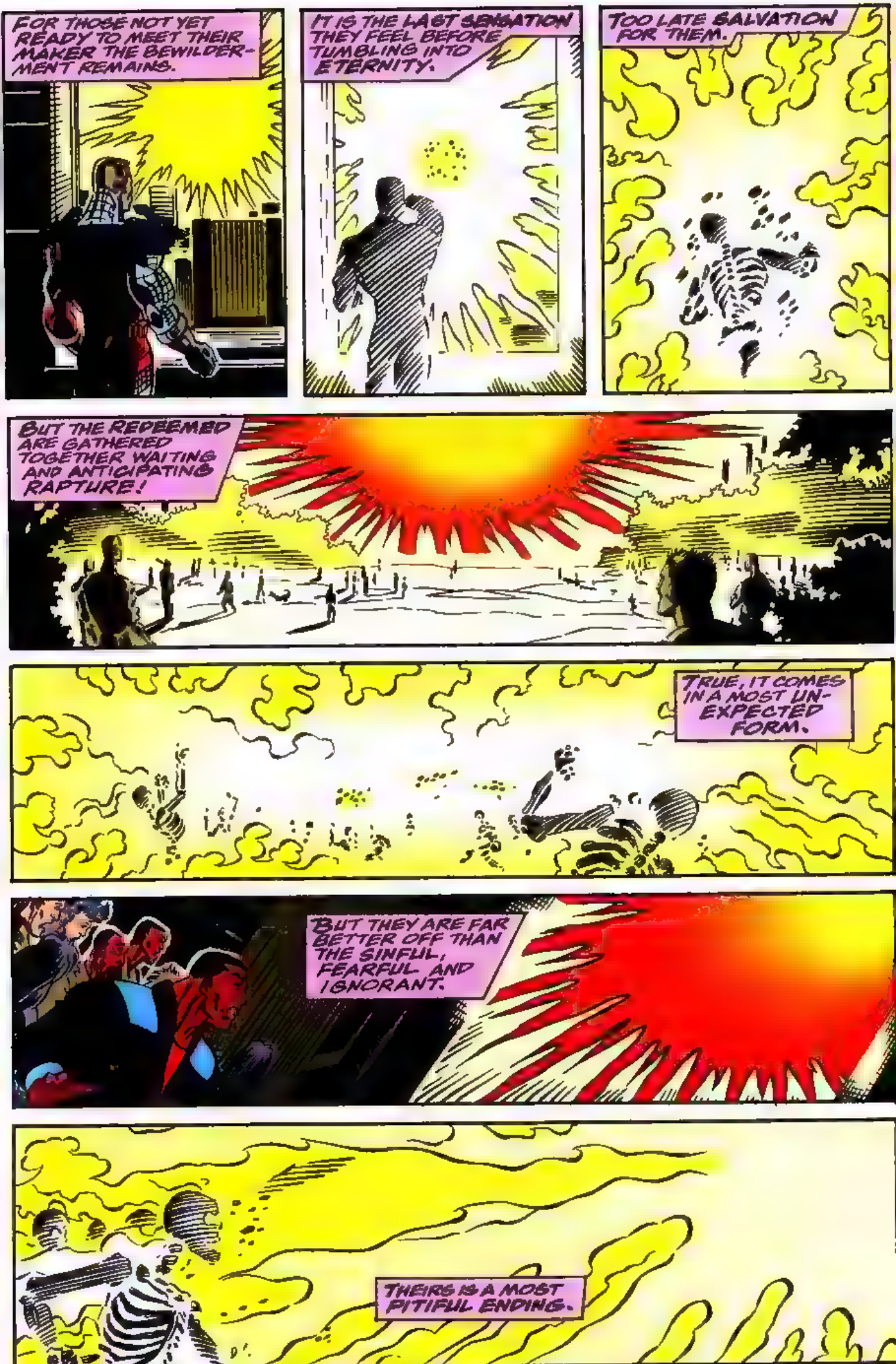
THE INFINITY CRUSADE™ Vol. 1, No. 6, November, 1993. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart President Stan Lee Publisher. Michael Hobson Group Vice President Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $3.15 in Canada. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. INFINITY CRUSADE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. Printed in Canada.

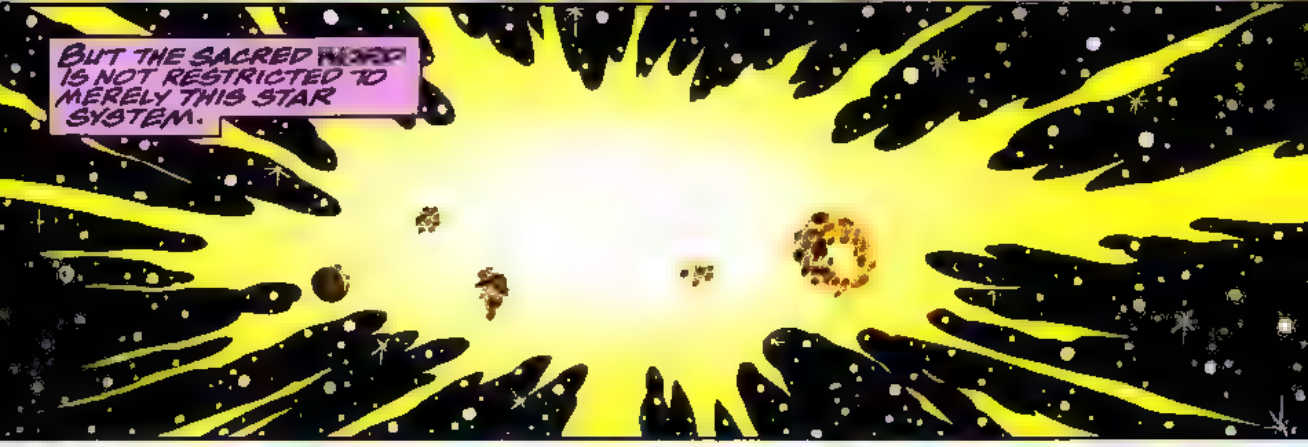

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE PLANET MERCURY IS CONSUMED WITHIN THE CLEANSING FLAMES.
LOVELY VENUS IS THE NEXT TO BE PURGED AND SANCTIFIED!
THE ALL-EMBRACING NOVA REACHES OUT TO PARADISE OMEGA, THE WORLD I DID CREATE BUT A FEW SHORT HOURS AGO...
THE FIRST TO REALIZE THE APPROACHING RAPTURE ARE BATTLING THOR AND DRAX, ON AN ASTEROID ORBITING THIS PLANET.
INSTANTANEOUS PURIFICATION OF SPIRIT.
I THEN SENSE FIRELORD SOARING TOWARD PARADISE OMEGA, RETURNING TO THE FOLD.
HIS SINS ARE ALSO FORGIVEN AMIDST THE INFERNO.

ABSOLUTION AND DESTRUCTION BLAZE IN A MERCILESS SKY.
COMBATANTS SUCH AS WOLVERINE, GAMORA, AND THE MYSTERIOUS MAXAM CEASE THEIR STRUGGLES AND GAZE HEAVENWARD.
THEIR CARES DISAPPEAR WITHIN SACRED FLAME.
INFIDELS SUCH AS IRON MAN STAND SIDE BY SIDE WITH QUICKSILVER, AURORA AND STORM, TRUE BELIEVERS.
ALL ARE BLESSED AND FORGIVEN.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THIS DIVINE EDICT, NOT EVEN IN THE SUB-TERRANEAN DEPTHS OF MY PRIVATE SANCTUARY.

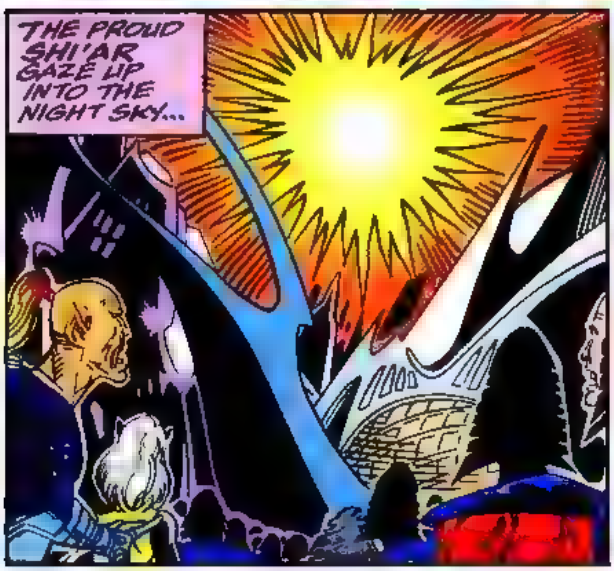
EVEN EVIL AND ANNOYINGLY PERSISTENT THANOS MUST FACE HOLY JUDGMENT THIS DAY.
HE IS ENGULFED IN RAPTURE WITH PROFESSOR X, DEGENERATE PIP AND TRUSTING SILHOUETTE.
ALL OF PARADISE OMEGA IS CONSIGNED TO THE HOLY FIRE.
NEXT STOP FOR THE DIVINE IS WARLOCK'S BIRTH WORLD, EARTH.
THE INITIAL RESPONSE TO SPOTTING CELESTIAL GRANDEUR AT THE FRONT DOOR IS ALWAYS CONFUSION.
IS IT IN THE WITNESS'S IMAGINATION OR IS THE SUN ACTUALLY GROWING LARGER?

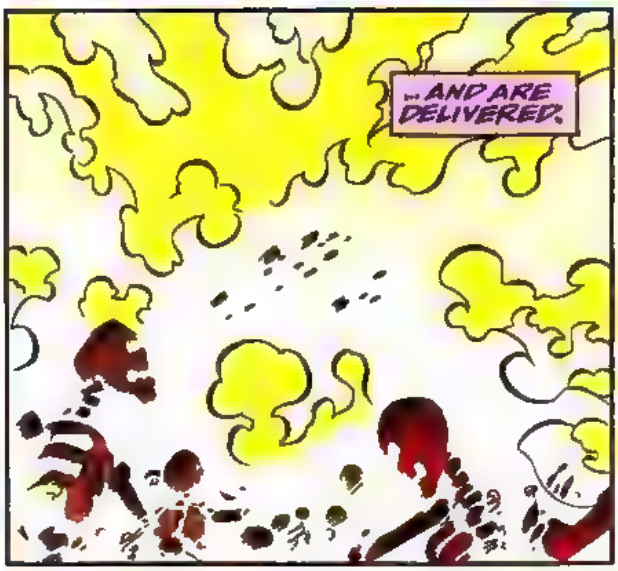

FOR THOSE NOT YET READY TO MEET THEIR MAKER THE BEWILDERMENT REMAINS.
IT IS THE LAST SENSATION THEY FEEL BEFORE TUMBLING INTO ETERNITY.
TOO LATE SALVATION FOR THEM.
BUT THE REDEEMED ARE GATHERED TOGETHER WAITING AND ANTICIPATING RAPTURE!
TRUE, IT COMES IN A MOST UNEXPECTED FORM.
BUT THEY ARE FAR BETTER OFF THAN THE SINFUL, FEARFUL AND IGNORANT.
THEIRS IS A MOST PITIFUL ENDING.

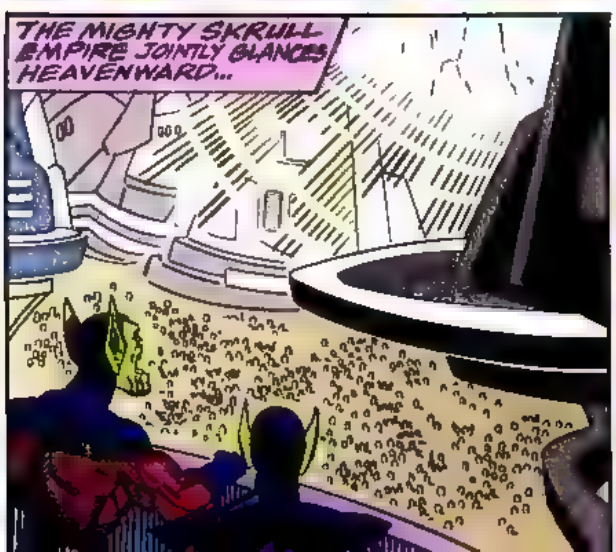
NOR IS ANY ESCAPE TO BE FOUND IN FANTASY AND ENTERTAINMENT.
FIERY REALITY INSINUATES ITSELF EVEN INTO THE MOST PREOCCUPIED OF SOULS.
DOOMSDAY IS UPON THE UNIVERSE! THE SECOND COMING BRINGS FINALITY!
NATURE BECOMES MEMORY WITHIN A LONE MIND.
EVEN THE SEAS ARE PURGED OF THE CONTAMINATION WITHIN THEIR DEPTHS.
HUMANKIND'S GREATEST CREATIONS INCINERATE AND ARE FORGOTTEN.
ALL SIN IS ERADICATED ALONG WITH THE SINNERS!

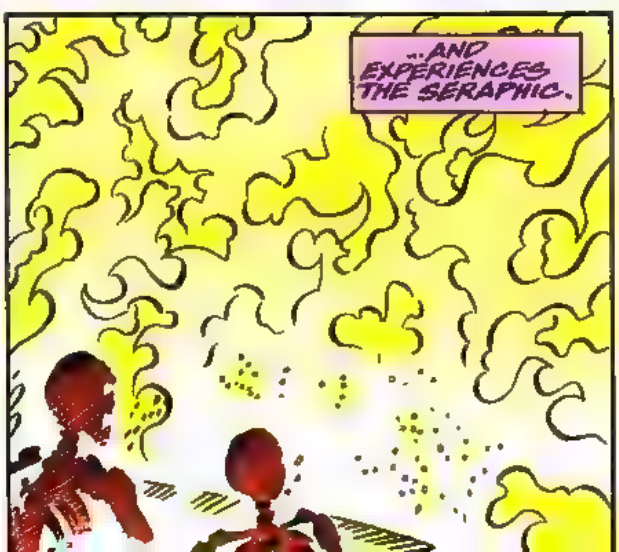

BUT THE SACRED [illegible] IS NOT RESTRICTED TO MERELY THIS STAR SYSTEM.

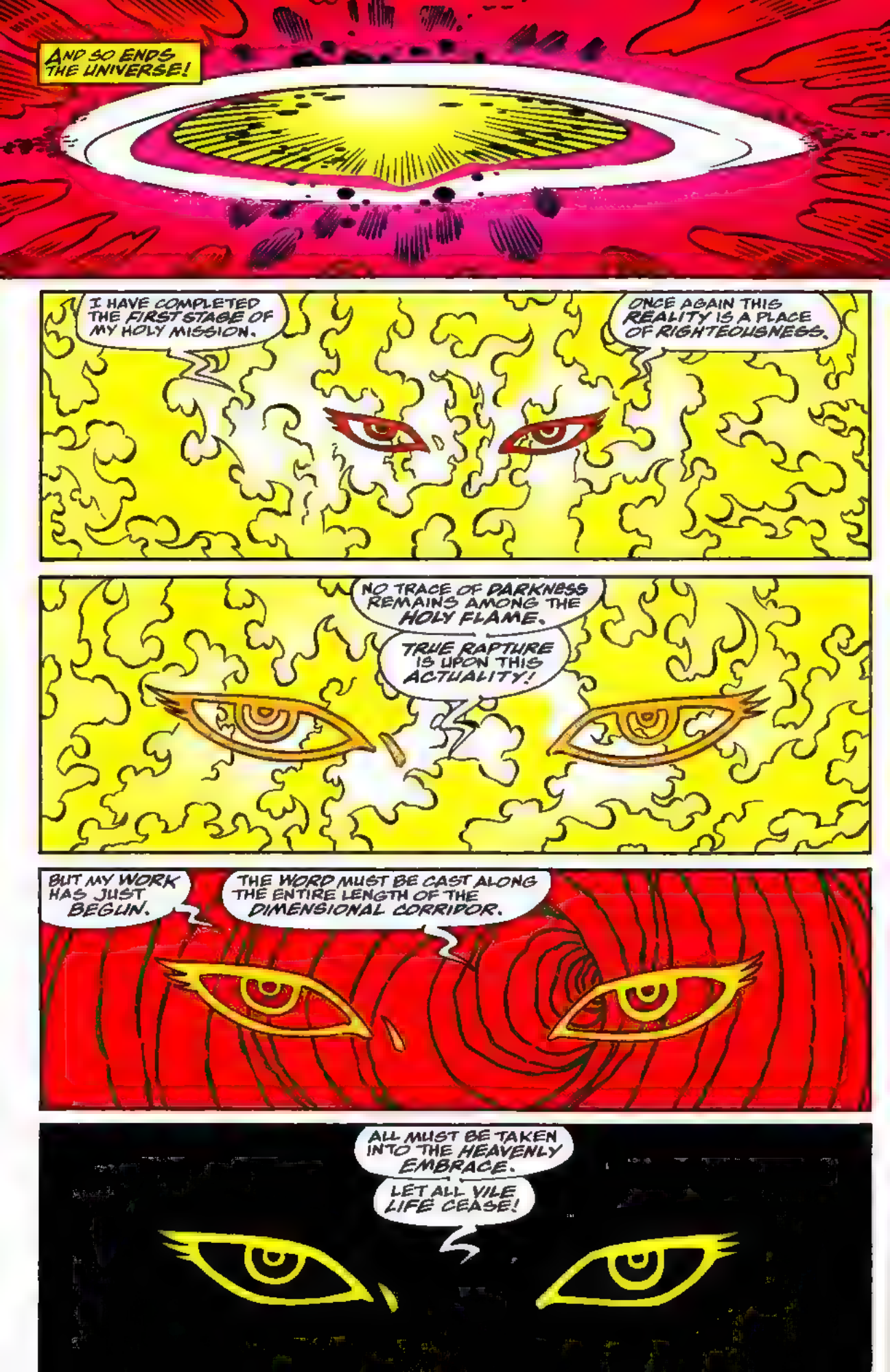
ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY THE RAPTURE SPREADS.


THE PROUD SHI'AR GAZE UP INTO THE NIGHT SKY...


...AND ARE DELIVERED.


THE MIGHTY SKRULL EMPIRE JOINTLY GLANCES HEAVENWARD...


...AND EXPERIENCES THE SERAPHIC.


AND SO ENDS THE UNIVERSE!
I HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE OF MY HOLY MISSION.
ONCE AGAIN THIS REALITY IS A PLACE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
NO TRACE OF DARKNESS REMAINS AMONG THE HOLY FLAME.
TRUE RAPTURE IS UPON THIS ACTUALITY!
BUT MY WORK HAS JUST BEGUN.
THE WORD MUST BE CAST ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.
ALL MUST BE TAKEN INTO THE HEAVENLY EMBRACE.
LET ALL VILE LIFE CEASE!

LET ALL THAT IS HOLY ONCE AGAIN...
THIS CANNOT BE!
BUT IT IS, GODDESS!
REPORTS OF THE DEMISE OF THIS UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED.
MMMPPH!
"THE RECENTLY DECEASED OPEN THEIR EYES IN DUMBFOUNDED AMAZEMENT!
"THEY STAGGER FROM THE REALIZATION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM A FATE THAT NEVER WAS.
"BELIEVER AND INFIDEL ALIKE FIND REDEMPTION OF A SORT YOU NEVER DREAMT OF."

"THE FEAR PASSES FROM THE HEARTS OF THE INNOCENT MASSES YOU WOULD HAVE SACRIFICED.
"EVEN THE TRUSTING, WHOM YOU DUPED INTO BECOMING UNWITTING ACCOMPLICES, BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF!
"THEY HAVE BEEN TO THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS AND THOUGHT THEMSELVES FALLEN.
"BUT THE MIRACLE OF A SECOND CHANCE HAS SUDDENLY BECOME THEIRS!
"ALREADY THEIR MINDS ADJUST TO THIS WONDER IN WHATEVER FASHION BEST SUITS THEM.
"SOME WILL BE FOREVER CHANGED BY THIS IMPOSSIBLE MOMENT.
"WHILE OTHERS WILL GLANCE ABOUT THEIR UNCHANGED SURROUNDINGS, AND...
"...CONVINCE THEMSELVES IT WAS NAUGHT BUT IMAGINATION RUN WILD, A MERE FANTASY."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
DID YOU...?
NO. BUT I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS.
THEN ALLOW ME TO CONFIRM THEM.
WARLOCK!
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BOGUS DOOMSDAY?
WITH SOME UNINTENTIONAL AID.
I WAS LURKING IN THE GODDESS'S SUBCONSCIOUS WHEN I REALIZED YOU WOULD NOT BREACH HER SPIRITUAL DEFENSES IN TIME TO STOP HER FROM DESTROYING THE UNIVERSE.
BEING IN EFFECT PART OF THE GODDESS'S BEING AND IN CONTACT WITH THE COSMIC EGG...
...I ORDERED IT TO CREATE A GALAXY-WIDE ILLUSION OF ARMAGEDDON A MERE MOMENT BEFORE SHE INSTITUTED THE REAL THING.
SO FINELY SPACED WAS THIS MANEUVER THAT THE GODDESS BELIEVED THAT SHE HAD ACTUALLY SET THE END-OF-ALL-THERE-IS INTO MOTION.

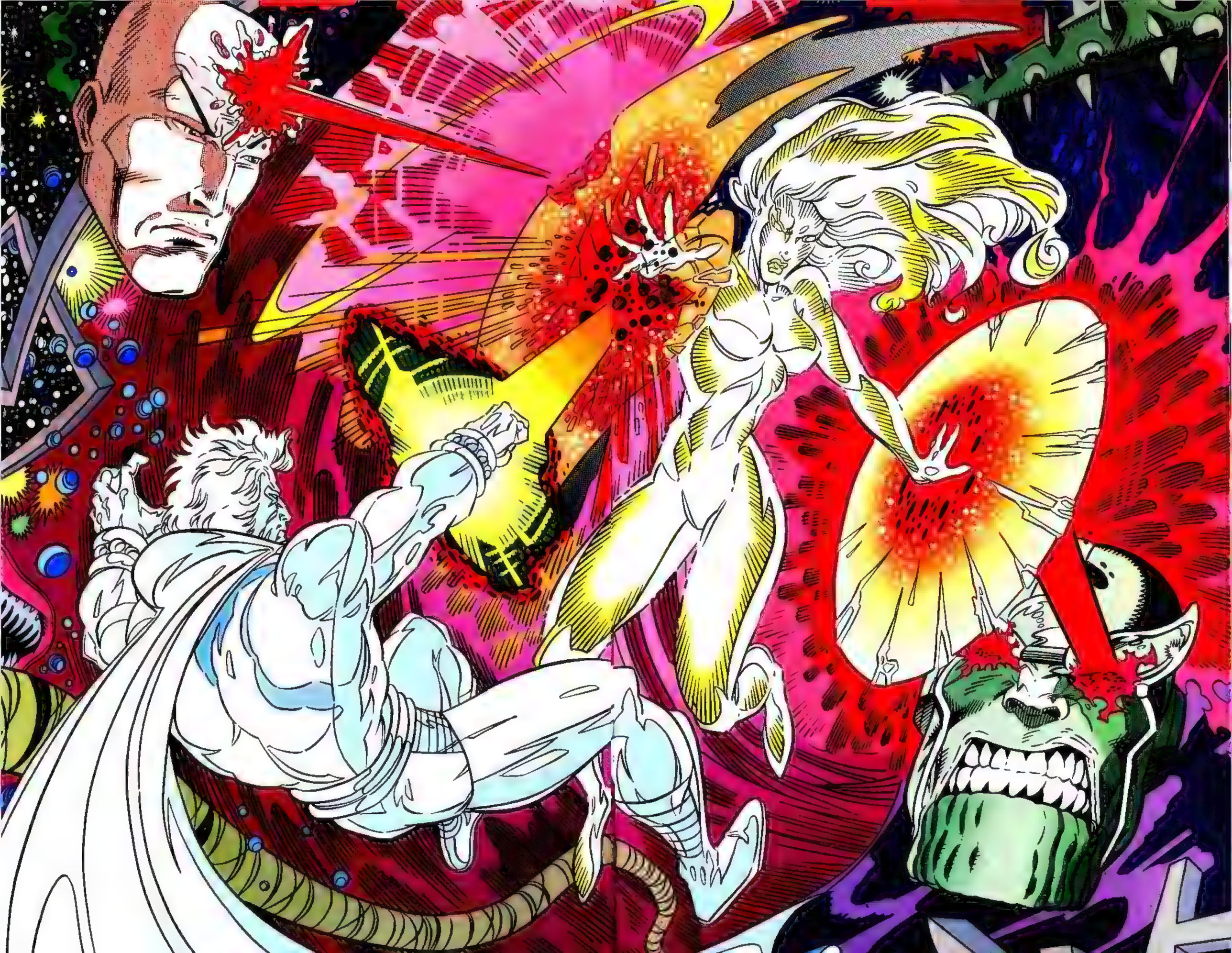
SO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE EXPERIENCED ITS OWN DEATH WITHOUT ACTUALLY HAVING TO SUFFER IT.
I HAVE SEVERELY UNDERESTIMATED YOU, WARLOCK-
YOU AND MANY OTHERS IN THE PAST.
BUT IN THE LONG RUN IT MATTERS NOT.
I STILL RETAIN THE GREAT POWER AND WILL YET CREATE RAPTURE!
YOU FORGET, GODDESS, THAT INFIDEL AND BELIEVER ALIKE NOW REALIZE YOUR SUICIDAL INTENT!
YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF GENERATING THE UNIVERSAL WILL TO OVERRIDE THE EGG'S BUILT-IN INHIBITIONS CONCERNING GALACTIC SELF-DESTRUCTION.
TRUE, AN IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL PURGE IS NOW BEYOND MY GRASP...
...BUT WITH THE COSMIC EGG IN MY EMPLOY I SHALL MERELY ACCOMPLISH THE SAME GOAL IN CAREFULLY PLANNED STAGES INSTEAD.
NOT IF THANOS AND I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
I STAND READY TO ACT, WARLOCK!

SINFUL ADAM! LET YOU BE THE FIRST TO PERISH!
IMPOSSIBLE!
A SHORTCOMING OF THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS, AS COMPARED TO THE JOINED INFINITY GEMS, IS THE FACT THAT THEY CANNOT AFFECT THE SOUL!
AND THAT IS WHAT I CURRENTLY AM, GODDESS, PURE SPIRIT!
THEN THAT IS HOW I SHALL DEAL WITH YOU!
THIS BODY WAS NEVER MORE THAN A SHELL THROUGH WHICH TO DEAL WITH CORPOREAL REALITY!

I AM LINKED TO THIS PLANE AND SO MY SPIRIT IS FIRED BY DIVINE PURPOSE, WHICH MAKES IT YOUR SUPERIOR!
YOUR COOL INTELLECT CANNOT HOPE TO PREVAIL OVER MY ZEAL AND DETERMINATION!
I SHALL YET TRIUMPH THIS DAY!
WE BATTLE WITHIN AN ENERGY PLANE WHICH IS THE BASE REALITY FOR THE COSMIC EGG!

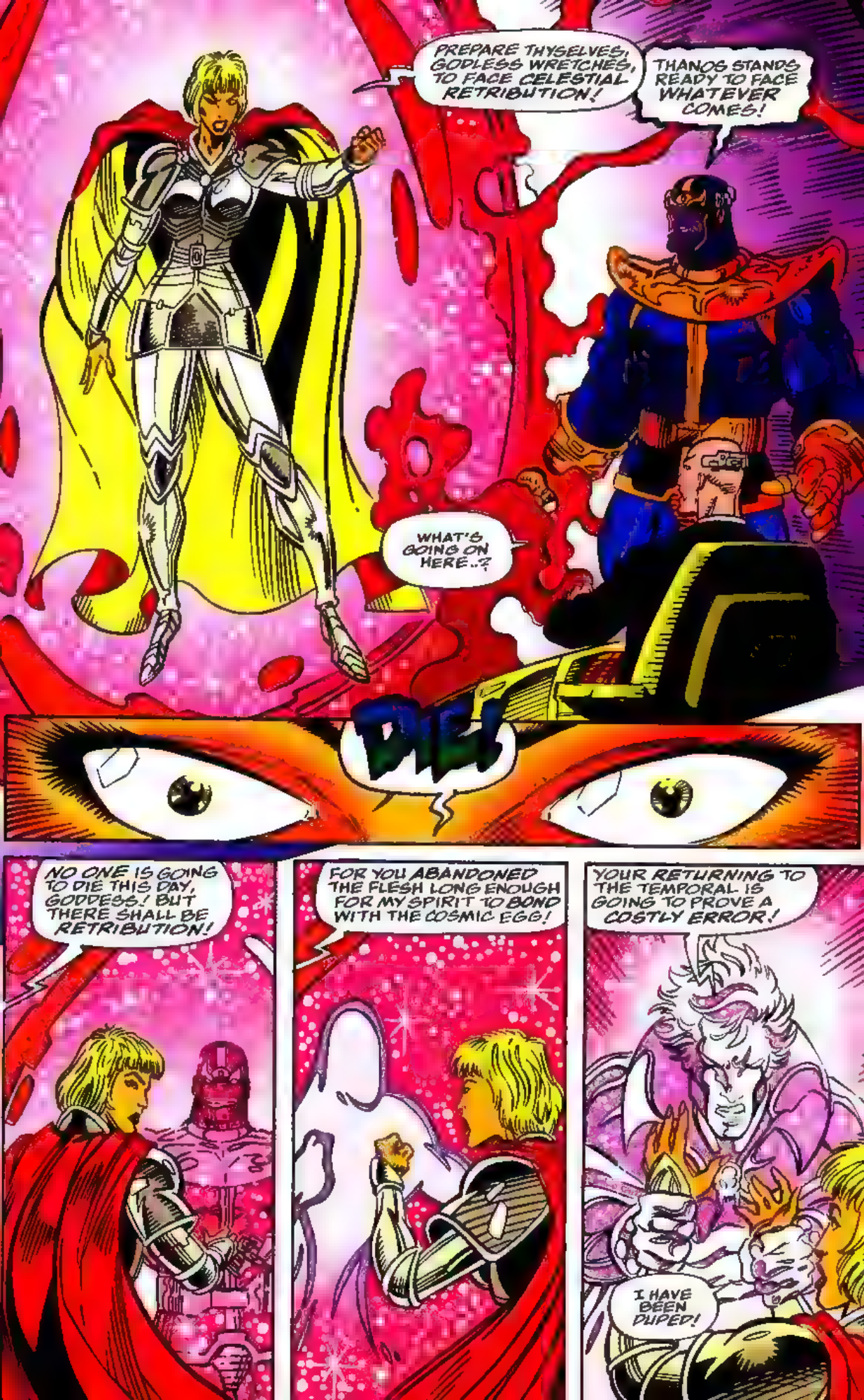
YOUR ATTEMPTS TO THWART MY SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM ITSELF MUST FAIL!
AND THEY WOULD...
...IF I FOUGHT ALONE!
SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL PROJECTIONS OF--
THANOS AND PROF. X!

ON A DIFFERENT PLANE THIS WOULD INDEED BE DISTURBING NEWS, WARLOCK.
BUT IT MATTERS LITTLE IN THIS REALM!
FOR WE STRUGGLE WITHIN CONFINES MARRIED TO MY SPIRIT!
HERE I AM SUPREME!



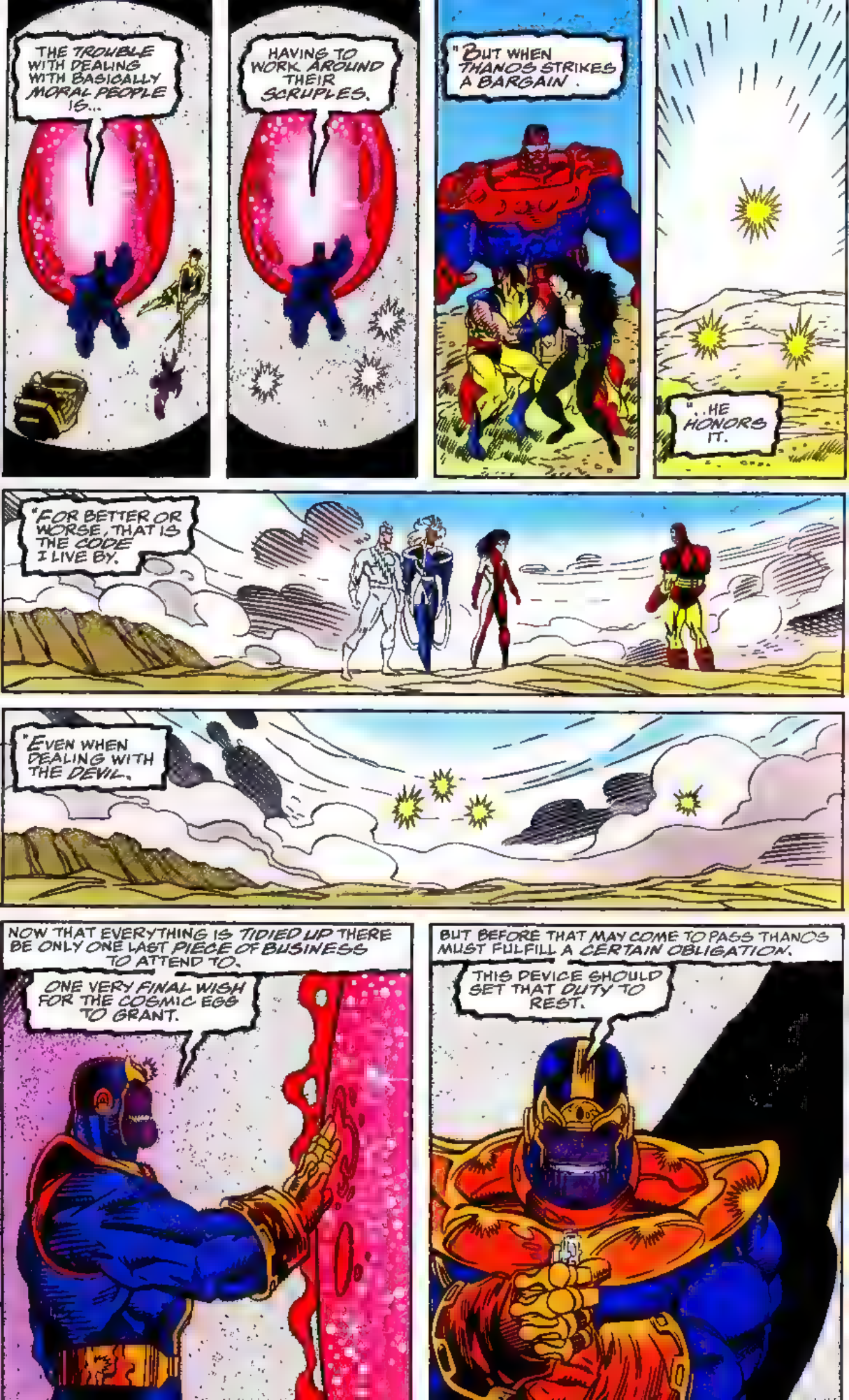
NO!
SURRENDER, GODDESS! YOU ARE BUT A PARTIAL SOUL PITTED AGAINST THREE POWERFUL AND WHOLE SPIRITS!
PLEASE... NO MORE... GIVE UP...
LET US PUT AN END TO THIS MADNESS AS MERCIFULLY AS WE CAN.
FOOL!

SHE'S TRYING TO GET BACK TO THE EGG!
STOP HER!
IF SHE SETS THE CONFLICT BACK ON A PHYSICAL LEVEL WE ARE LOST!
TOO LATE, FOOLISH SINNERS!
JUSTICE AGAIN TRIUMPHS!
LET EVIL REAP ITS RIGHTEOUS REWARD!


PREPARE THYSELVES, GODLESS WRETCHES, TO FACE CELESTIAL RETRIBUTION!
THANOS STANDS READY TO FACE WHATEVER COMES!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE..?
DIE!
NO ONE IS GOING TO DIE THIS DAY, GODDESS! BUT THERE SHALL BE RETRIBUTION!
FOR YOU ABANDONED THE FLESH LONG ENOUGH FOR MY SPIRIT TO BOND WITH THE COSMIC EGG!
YOUR RETURNING TO THE TEMPORAL IS GOING TO PROVE A COSTLY ERROR!
I HAVE BEEN DUPED!

THANOS, NOW!

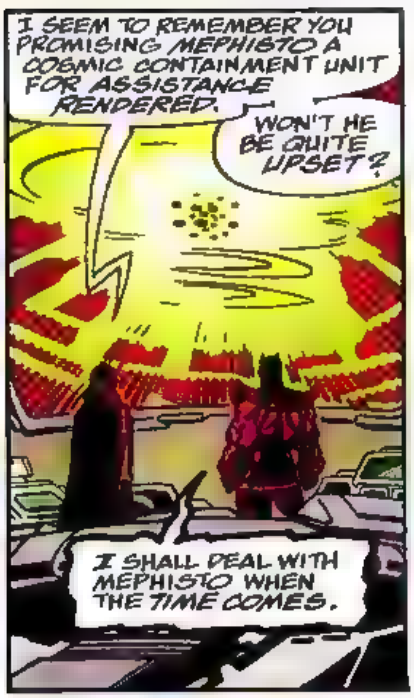
IT IS FINISHED
WITHIN A SPACE-CRAFT HALF A STAR SYSTEM AWAY...
...A HERO RECALLS THE FLESH.
MUST QUICKLY GET TO THE SHIP'S TELEPORTATION STATION!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A PREPROGRAMMED COMMAND WARLOCK SET BEFORE ALLOWING ME TO SEND HIS SPIRIT OFF TO SOUL WORLD.
CLEVER.
WHICH MEANS I HAVE ONLY SECONDS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT MUST BE DONE!


THE TROUBLE WITH DEALING WITH BASICALLY MORAL PEOPLE IS...
HAVING TO WORK AROUND THEIR SCRUPLES.
"BUT WHEN THANOS STRIKES A BARGAIN.
"...HE HONORS IT.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THAT IS THE CODE I LIVE BY.
"EVEN WHEN DEALING WITH THE DEVIL.
NOW THAT EVERYTHING IS TIDIED UP THERE BE ONLY ONE LAST PIECE OF BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
ONE VERY FINAL WISH FOR THE COSMIC EGG TO GRANT.
BUT BEFORE THAT MAY COME TO PASS THANOS MUST FULFILL A CERTAIN OBLIGATION.
THIS DEVICE SHOULD SET THAT DUTY TO REST.

AS USUAL, MY TIMING IS INCREDIBLY PRECISE!
GREETINGS, TITAN.
WHAT?
I SEE MY SUDDEN ARRIVAL WAS NOT ANTICIPATED.
THE SOUL GEM IS ONCE AGAIN MINE!
AND BE ASSURED THAT I AM READY AND WILLING TO USE IT AGAINST EVEN AN ALLY TO INSURE THAT THE COSMIC EGG DOES NOT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
MEANING MY HANDS.
STAND DOWN, WARLOCK. THERE IS NO NEED FOR US TO BATTLE.
NOT I NOR ANY OTHER WILL BE EXPLOITING THIS PARTICULAR ASTRAL WONDER.
FOR I HAVE ORDERED THE COSMIC EGG TO BREAK ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE DOWN...
.. TO A SUB-ENERGY LEVEL...

...IN EFFECT DESTROYING ITSELF AND THIS PLANET IN TEN SHORT MINUTES FROM NOW.
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, PARADISE OMEGA ROCKETS OUT OF THE STAR SYSTEM AND INTO THE VOID!
I TAKE IT YOU DO NOT PLAN TO JOIN IN THIS EXPLOSIVE END..?
NOR SHALL YOU. TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN ARRANGED.
YOU SEE, ADAM WARLOCK IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO LIKES TO PLAN AHEAD.
BACK ON EARTH AT AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
WE'RE ALL HOME IN ONE PIECE. MUST MEAN THE GOOD GUYS WON AGAIN.
HE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
IT'S OVER NICK. AS TO HOW; YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.

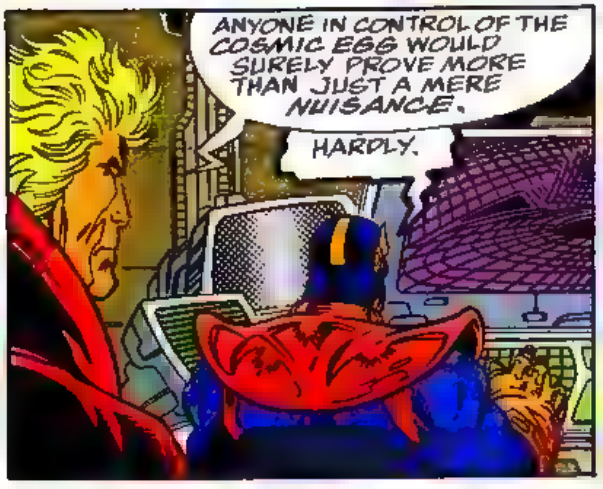
THOR SURE SEEMED TO BE IN A BIG HURRY TO GET OUT OF HERE
HE SORT OF HAD A STRANGE LOOK IN HIS EYES, DIDN'T HE?
...AND WHEN I AWOKE, YOUR SWORD WAS LYING NEXT TO ME AND MY BACK WAS SHAVED.
EXCEEDINGLY STRANGE.
MMMPHH!
AS HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE, IT APPEARS THANOS HAD A HAND IN SAVING THE DAY.
WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE.
MMMPH!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR HEALING FACTOR'S AS GOOD AS MINE.
WHERE'D YOU GET IT..?
FROM A DOCTOR THANOS.
THREE LIGHT YEARS AWAY.
SO ENDS THE GODDESS'S HOLY REIGN AND TWISTED DREAMS.


I SEEM TO REMEMBER YOU PROMISING MEPHISTO A COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT FOR ASSISTANCE RENDERED.
WON'T HE BE QUITE UPSET?
I SHALL DEAL WITH MEPHISTO WHEN THE TIME COMES.

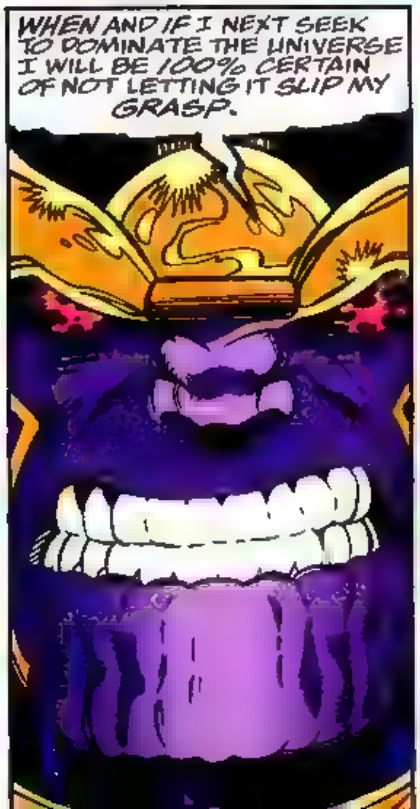
YOU HAVE CHANGED GREATLY OF LATE, TITAN.
THROUGHOUT THIS AFFAIR YOU HAVE BEHAVED WITH HONOR.
WARLOCK, YOU ARE NOT TRYING TO PAINT ME THE HERO, ARE YOU?

AS ALWAYS, THANOS DID ACT IN A MANNER THAT WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL TO HIMSELF, NOTHING MORE.
BUT YOU DID FREELY DESTROY THE COSMIC EGG.

ONLY SO NO FOOL WOULD GAIN POSSESSION OF IT AND BECOME A NUISANCE.


ANYONE IN CONTROL OF THE COSMIC EGG WOULD SURELY PROVE MORE THAN JUST A MERE NUISANCE.
HARDLY.

AS YOU SO HANDILY POINTED OUT TO THE GODDESS, THE EGG IS FLAWED--NOT OMNIPOTENT.
WHICH IS WHY YOU CHOSE NOT TO CLAIM IT?

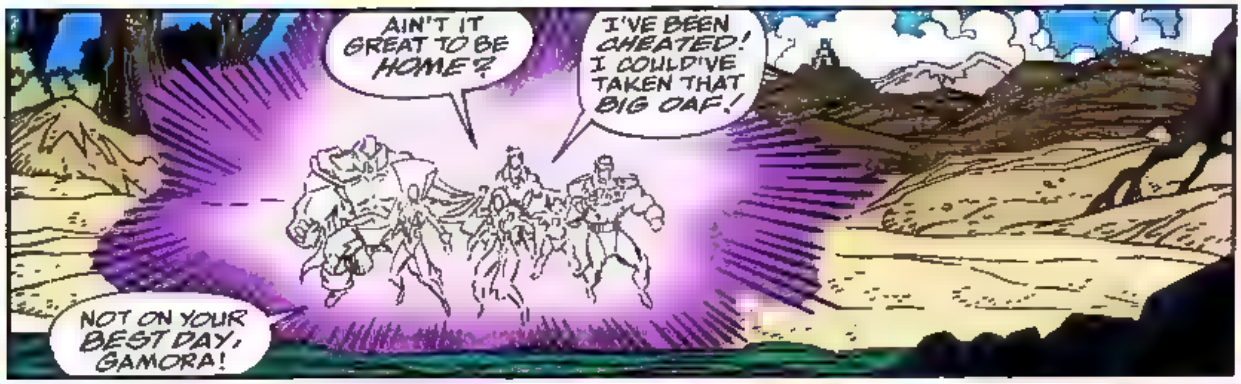

WHEN AND IF I NEXT SEEK TO DOMINATE THE UNIVERSE I WILL BE 100% CERTAIN OF NOT LETTING IT SLIP MY GRASP.

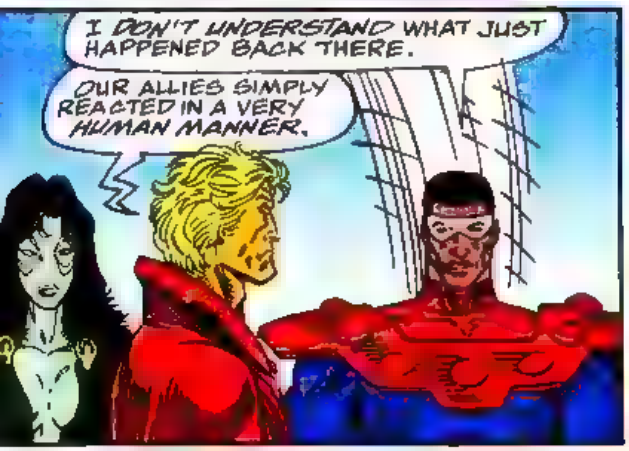
FARE THEE WELL UNTIL THEN, ADAM WARLOCK.
YES... UNTIL THEN.

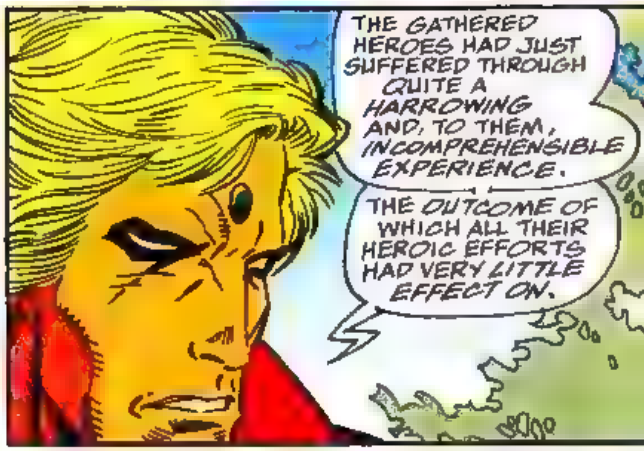
WELL, LOOK WHO DECIDED TO POP IN FOR A VISIT!
PROBABLY EXPECTING TO BE CONGRATULATED ON HIS VICTORY OVER THE GODDESS!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE SHOWING YOUR FACE AROUND HERE!
YEAH!
EXCUSE ME.
YOUR GODDESS TAMPERED WITH SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE US ALL!
AND NEARLY DESTROYED THE UNIVERSE TO BOOT!
YOUR POINT?
THE WAY I HEAR IT, THIS GODDESS IS PART OF YOUR BEING, GOLDIE!
IN MY BOOK THAT MAKES YOU PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT CAME DOWN!
YOU MUSCLE-HEAD! ADAM COULDN'T CONTROL THE GODDESS'S ACTIONS!
BESIDES, HE MADE EVERYTHING RIGHT DIDN'T HE?
FACE IT, SHORTY, EVER SINCE WARLOCK CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD HE'S BROUGHT NOTHING BUT TROUBLE WITH HIM!
WHO YOU CALLING SHORTY?
PIP, GET US OUT OF HERE.
YOU GOT IT.

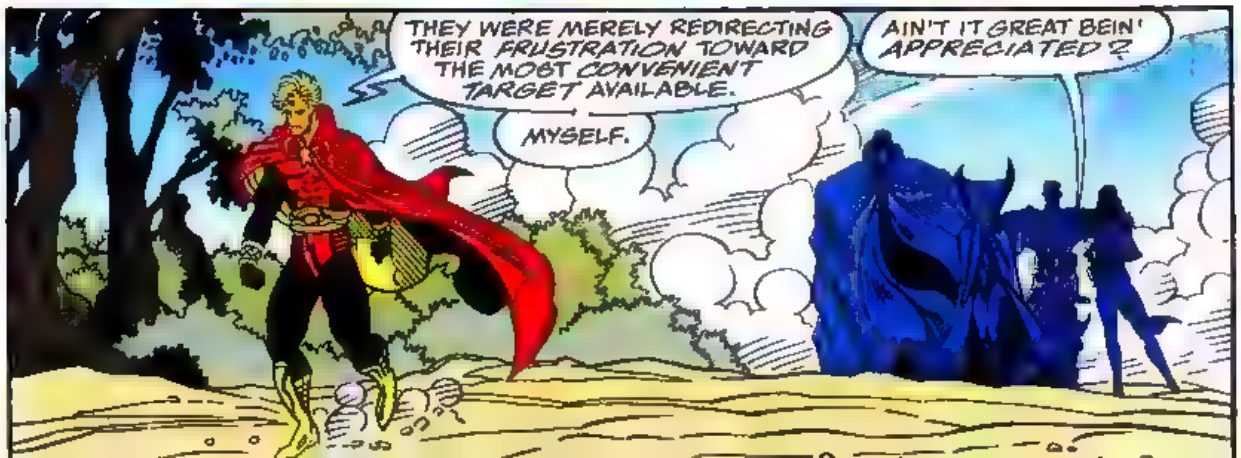
I SAY THIS GOLDEN CREEP DESERVES A GOOD--
HULK, DON'T!
THERE ARE QUESTIONS I WANT ANSWERED, AND WARLOCK IS--

-- NEVER MIND

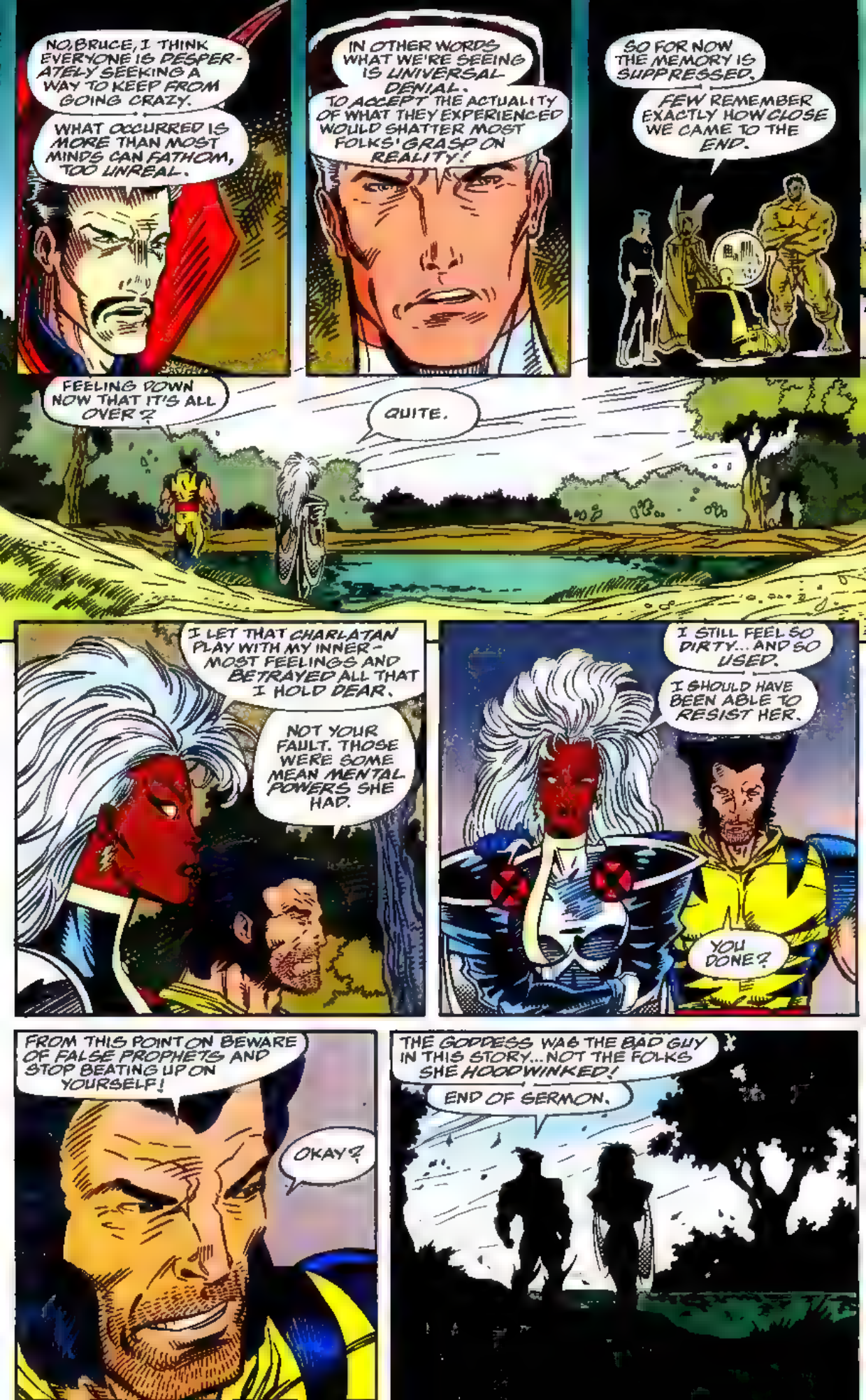

AIN'T IT GREAT TO BE HOME?
I'VE BEEN CHEATED! I COULD'VE TAKEN THAT BIG OAF!
NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, GAMORA!

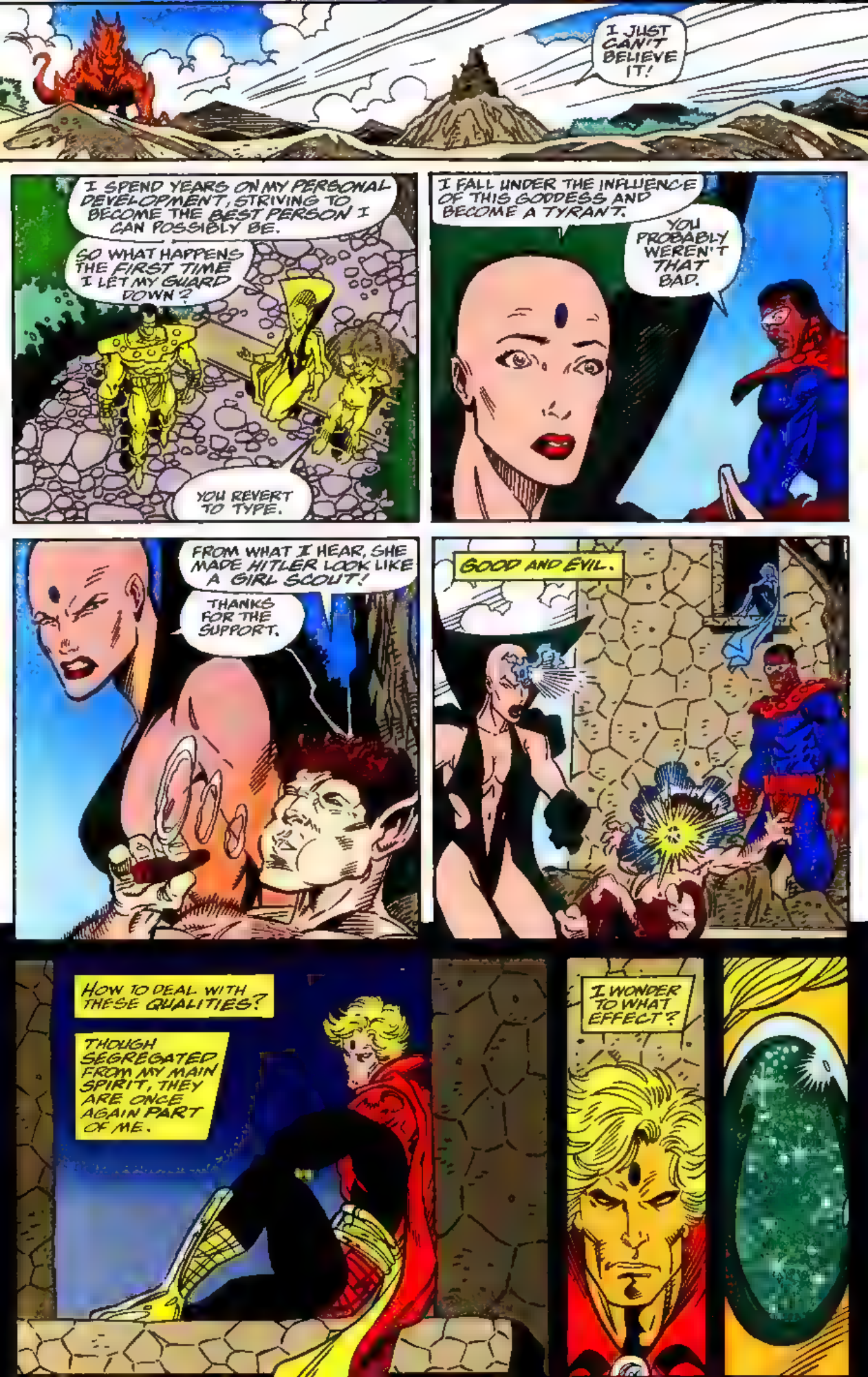

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT JUST HAPPENED BACK THERE.
OUR ALLIES SIMPLY REACTED IN A VERY HUMAN MANNER.

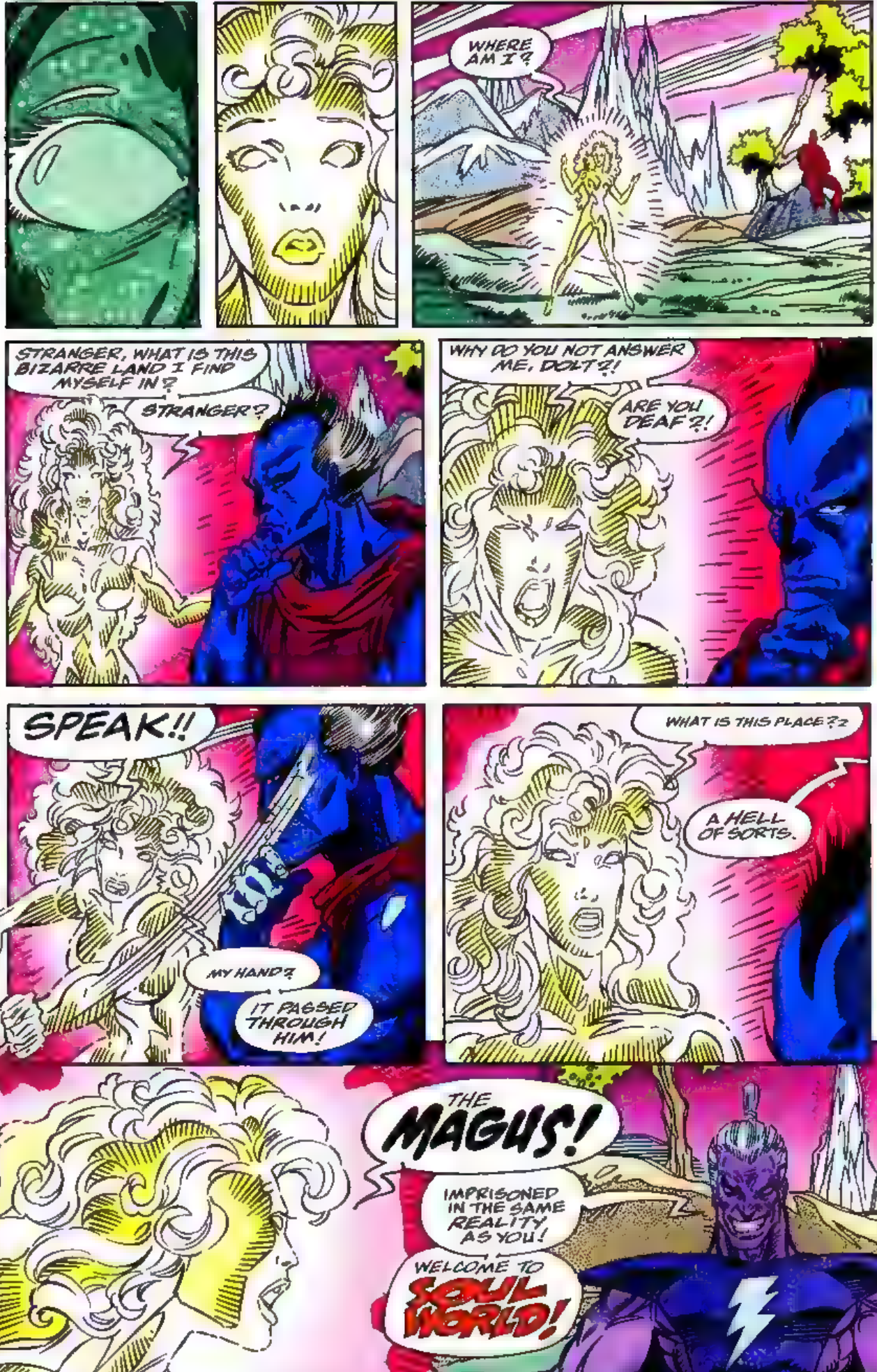

THE GATHERED HEROES HAD JUST SUFFERED THROUGH QUITE A HARROWING AND, TO THEM, INCOMPREHENSIBLE EXPERIENCE.
THE OUTCOME OF WHICH ALL THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS HAD VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON.

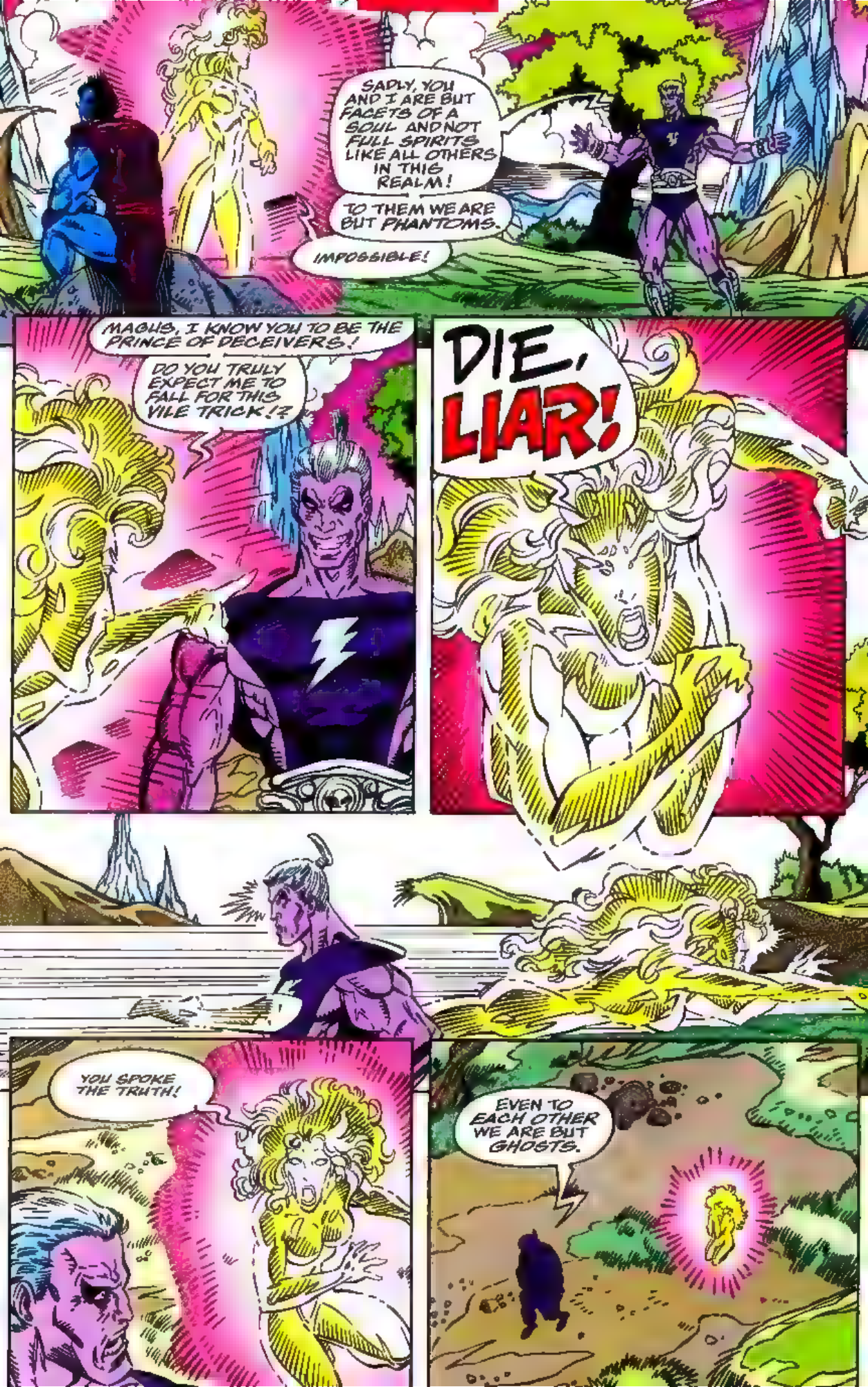

THEY WERE MERELY REDIRECTING THEIR FRUSTRATION TOWARD THE MOST CONVENIENT TARGET AVAILABLE.
MYSELF.
AIN'T IT GREAT BEIN' APPRECIATED?

SATURN'S MOON, TITAN.
HOW GOES IT, FRIEND FIRELORD?
I RETURN FROM A MOST UNUSUAL ADVENTURE EROS.
TELL ME, HOW FARED TITAN DURING THIS DIRE TIME?
FINE. NOTHING AMISS.
NOTHING?! BUT THE SURFER DID REPORT--
IN FACT IT'S BEEN TERRIBLY BORING AROUND HERE SINCE DRAX JOINED THE INFINITY WATCH.
PERHAPS I SHOULD PAY HIM A VISIT.
CARE TO JOIN ME?
INCREDIBLE! HE DOESN'T RECALL BEING ENTHRALLED BY THE GODDESS!
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE WRITTEN OFF THEIR WITNESSING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE AS SOME SORT OF HALLUCINATION OR DAYDREAM.
FROM WHAT I CAN ASCERTAIN NO ONE'S EVEN DISCUSSING THE MATTER.
THAT'S CRAZY!


NO, BRUCE, I THINK EVERYONE IS DESPERATELY SEEKING A WAY TO KEEP FROM GOING CRAZY.
WHAT OCCURRED IS MORE THAN MOST MINDS CAN FATHOM, TOO UNREAL.
IN OTHER WORDS WHAT WE'RE SEEING IS UNIVERSAL DENIAL. TO ACCEPT THE ACTUALITY OF WHAT THEY EXPERIENCED WOULD SHATTER MOST FOLKS' GRASP ON REALITY!
SO FOR NOW THE MEMORY IS SUPPRESSED.
FEW REMEMBER EXACTLY HOW CLOSE WE CAME TO THE END.
FEELING DOWN NOW THAT IT'S ALL OVER?
QUITE.
I LET THAT CHARLATAN PLAY WITH MY INNERMOST FEELINGS AND BETRAYED ALL THAT I HOLD DEAR.
NOT YOUR FAULT. THOSE WERE SOME MEAN MENTAL POWERS SHE HAD.
I STILL FEEL SO DIRTY... AND SO USED.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESIST HER.
YOU DONE?
FROM THIS POINT ON BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS AND STOP BEATING UP ON YOURSELF!
OKAY?
THE GODDESS WAS THE BAD GUY IN THIS STORY... NOT THE FOLKS SHE HOODWINKED!
END OF SERMON.


I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I SPEND YEARS ON MY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, STRIVING TO BECOME THE BEST PERSON I CAN POSSIBLY BE.
SO WHAT HAPPENS THE FIRST TIME I LET MY GUARD DOWN?
YOU REVERT TO TYPE.
I FALL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS GODDESS AND BECOME A TYRANT.
YOU PROBABLY WEREN'T THAT BAD.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, SHE MADE HITLER LOOK LIKE A GIRL SCOUT!
THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT.
GOOD AND EVIL.
HOW TO DEAL WITH THESE QUALITIES?
THOUGH SEGREGATED FROM MY MAIN SPIRIT, THEY ARE ONCE AGAIN PART OF ME.
I WONDER TO WHAT EFFECT?


WHERE AM I?
STRANGER, WHAT IS THIS BIZARRE LAND I FIND MYSELF IN?
STRANGER?
WHY DO YOU NOT ANSWER ME, DOLT?!
ARE YOU DEAF?!
SPEAK!!
MY HAND?
IT PASSED THROUGH HIM!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!
A HELL OF SORTS.
THE MAGUS!
IMPRISONED IN THE SAME REALITY AS YOU!
WELCOME TO SOUL WORLD!

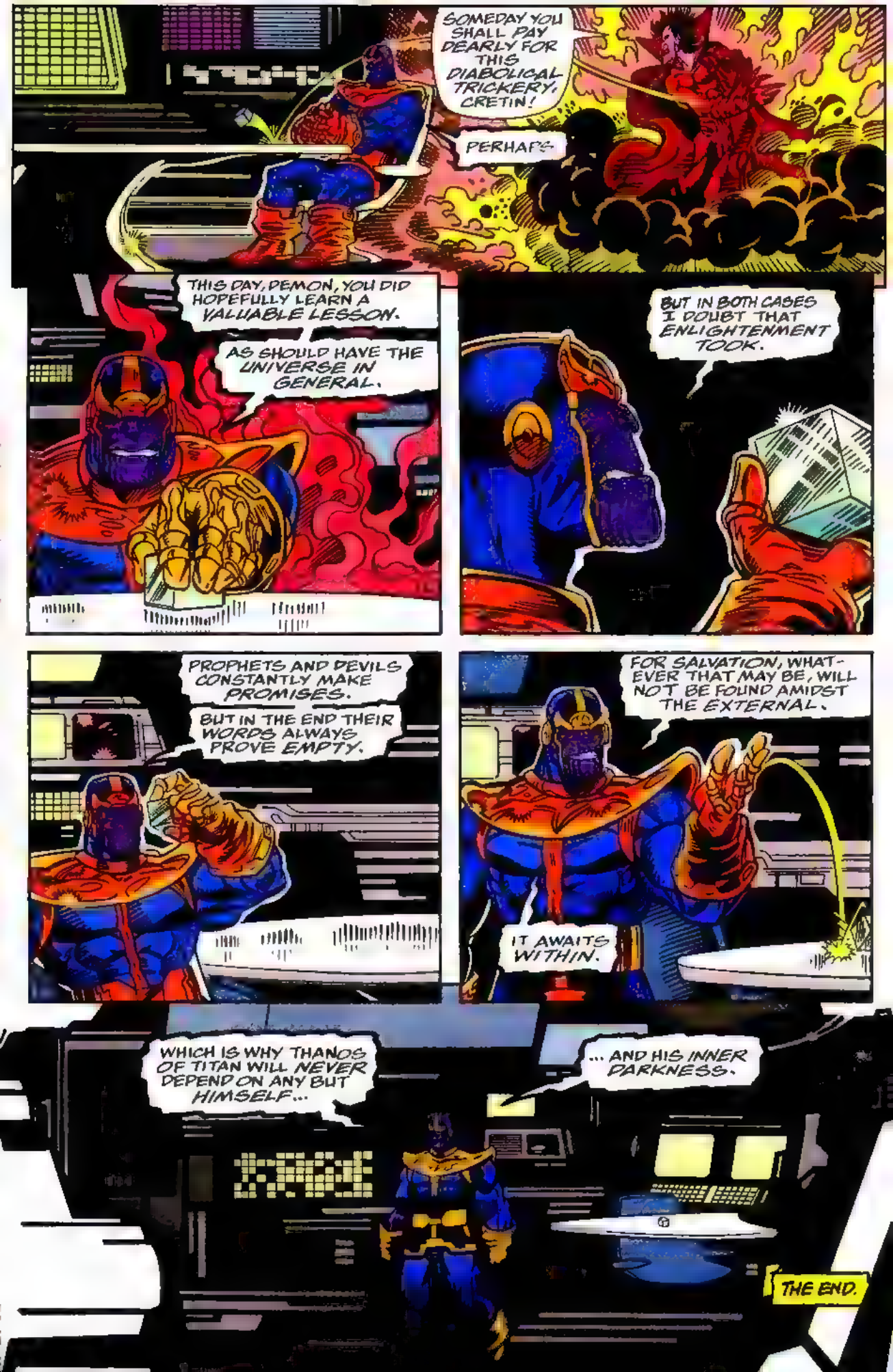

SADLY, YOU AND I ARE BUT FACETS OF A SOUL AND NOT FULL SPIRITS LIKE ALL OTHERS IN THIS REALM!
TO THEM WE ARE BUT PHANTOMS.
IMPOSSIBLE!
MAGUS, I KNOW YOU TO BE THE PRINCE OF DECEIVERS!
DO YOU TRULY EXPECT ME TO FALL FOR THIS VILE TRICK!?
DIE, LIAR!
YOU SPOKE THE TRUTH!
EVEN TO EACH OTHER WE ARE BUT GHOSTS.

NEW YORK CITY.
WELL, THIS IS ONE BANK ROBBERY THAT GOT CUT SHORT AND SWEET.
LOOKS LIKE ALL CROOKS GOING STRAIGHT UNDER THE GODDESS'S SWAY IS A THING OF THE PAST.
EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL.
TOO BAD.
AND ON THE BORDER OF ISRAEL AND LEBANON.
HALT!
LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS!

MEPHISTO.
I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
TITAN, YOU HAVE MY COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT?
WHAT OF THE OTHERS?
THEY ARE NO MORE.
LOST FOREVER.
THIS IS THE LAST COSMIC CUBE.

THE INFORMATION I PRESENTED YOU WITH WAS OF SOME HELP IN THWARTING THE GODDESS'S MAD AMBITIONS, I TAKE IT?
WE HAD A BARGAIN, TITAN.
I NOW EXPECT YOU TO LIVE UP TO YOUR END OF THAT DEAL.
I WOULD HAVE MY RIGHTFUL PROPERTY.
THANOS ALWAYS HONORS AN AGREEMENT.
THE COSMIC CUBE IS NOW MINE!
ANY WISH I IMAGINE BECOMES REALITY!
INCLUDING ..

...YOUR DEMISE, TITAN!
THE CUBE DOESN'T WORK, TITAN!
YOU CHEATED ME!
I DID NOT.
MEPHISTO, YOU ARE ALREADY ENOUGH OF A MENACE TO THE TRANQUILITY OF MY UNIVERSE.
I FULFILLED MY PART OF OUR ARRANGEMENT BY DELIVERING TO YOU AN ACTUAL COSMIC CUBE.
YOU NEVER SPECIFIED THAT YOU DESIRED A FUNCTIONING UNIT.
EVEN DEVILS SHOULD BEWARE WHEN BARGAINING WITH THANOS OF TITAN.


SOMEDAY YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS DIABOLICAL TRICKERY, CRETIN!
PERHAPS
THIS DAY, DEMON, YOU DID HOPEFULLY LEARN A VALUABLE LESSON.
AS SHOULD HAVE THE UNIVERSE IN GENERAL.
BUT IN BOTH CASES I DOUBT THAT ENLIGHTENMENT TOOK.
PROPHETS AND DEVILS CONSTANTLY MAKE PROMISES.
BUT IN THE END THEIR WORDS ALWAYS PROVE EMPTY.
FOR SALVATION, WHATEVER THAT MAY BE, WILL NOT BE FOUND AMIDST THE EXTERNAL.
IT AWAITS WITHIN.
WHICH IS WHY THANOS OF TITAN WILL NEVER DEPEND ON ANY BUT HIMSELF...
... AND HIS INNER DARKNESS.
THE END.

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THE END...?

innerFEARS

"Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire"
--Revelations

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE GALAXY A CRUSADE AGAINST INFINITE EVIL IS BEING FOUGHT. *

A SELF-APPOINTED SAVIOR KNOWN ONLY AS THE GODDESS HAS SENT A FLAME OF PURIFICATION DOWN OVER THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

HER INTENT IS TO CLEANSE EVERY LIVING BEING OF HIS OR HER SINS...

...REGARDLESS OF THE TRUE COST.

YAAAAHHHHH!

* SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #1-5 FOR DETAILS.-- TOM

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AHHHHHH--

WHERE AM I? AM I DEAD?

TH TH-S IS MY HOME

DAD! YOU'RE BACK! JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER!

NICK?

--IT'S ME! I'M HUMAN!

COURSE YOU'RE HUMAN, DAD C'MON, MOM MADE YOUR FAVORITE 'CAUSE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

I-I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE-- WAS IT ALL A TERRIBLE DREAM?

DAD-DAD!?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D TASTE FOOD AGAIN!

TO CELEBRATE YOUR RETURN!

I'M SO GLAD YOU QUIT CYBERTEK MICHAEL. HAVING YOU HOME FOR GOOD'S THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THIS FAMILY

WINE?

AIN'T NOTHING BETTER THAN SEEING YOUR OWN CHILDREN SLEEPING SAFELY, TRACY.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, MICHAEL WHAT WITH ALL YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN.

BUT WE'VE GOT THE REST OF THE NIGHT TO OURSELVES.

I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING.

LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT BABY

MMMMM.. TRACY, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED YOU--

SHOW ME BABY

TRACY--

IS THIS THE SELFISH DECISION YOU WOULD MAKE FOR YOURSELF, INSTEAD OF THE ONE THE FATES HAVE DETERMINED?

WHA--OF COURSE IT'S!

THEN THE ORIGINAL PLAN THAT CYBERTEK HAD FOR THE DEATHLOK CYBORG WOULD HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION.

THE ESTRELLA YOU FOUGHT TO SAVE WOULD NOW BE A CHARRED MEMORY...

...AND A FRANCHISED ARMY OF DEATHLOK CYBORGS WOULD ROAM THE WORLD!

CYBORGS YOU YOURSELF ARE PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING

I WAS TRICKED--

YOU HAD YOUR EYES CLOSED YOU SAW ONLY WHAT YOU WANTED TO SEE.

WAKANDA WOULD HAVE SURELY FALLEN TO THE ONSLAUGHT OF MOSES MAGNUM'S TERRORDOMES

THE BLACK PANTHER AND HIS WIFE WOULD LIE SLAIN ON THE EARTH LIKE SO MUCH REFUSE.

AN END UNBEFITTING A KING..

THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE THAT SOMEONE ELSE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THE SAME THINGS I DID!

THEY MIGHT'VE EVEN DONE IT BETTER! SO DON'T SAY WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IF I'D STAYED HUMAN ON ME!

THIS CYBORG SHELL'S GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT MISERY

WHY AM I ON TRIAL? I'VE DONE THE BEST I COULD WITH A SITUATION I FOR SURE NEVER ASKED FOR

I NEVER WANTED TO BE A HERO!

NO ONE HERE IS GRANTING YOU THAT TITLE

IT IS YOUR NONACCEPTANCE THAT IS THE CAUSE OF YOUR TROUBLES, NOT THE MACHINE YOUR MIND INHABITS.

YOUR RELUCTANCE TO ACT ALLOWED THE ARTIFICIALLY-INTELLIGENT CRIMINAL ULTRON TO ESCAPE.

YOU ALLOWED BUSHWHACKER TO RUN FREE. HE HAS SINCE COMMITTED NEARLY 27 BRUTAL MURDERS

YOUR MORALS ARE SO PRECIOUS THAT YOU HESITATED TO KILL WHEN YOUR OWN SON'S LIFE MIGHT HAVE DEPENDED ON IT.

YOU EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM KILLING TO SAVE--

KILLING IS WRONG! AND IF IT HAD COME DOWN TO IT, I WOULD HAVE--

ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE CONSUMED BY YOUR OWN DESIRES.

INSTEAD OF STAYING AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY SO THEY MIGHT REMAIN SAFE...

...THEIR LIVES ARE FOREVER AT STAKE BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISHNESS.

FIRST YOU FORCED YOURSELF INTO THEIR LIVES JUST IN TIME FOR THE CREATURE KNOWN AS BIOHAZARD TO COME WITHIN INCHES OF TAKING THOSE LIVES AWAY..

..THEN YOUR PRESENCE BROUGHT REVENGE TO THEIR HOME IN THE FORM OF THE HOBGOBLIN...

AND ALTHOUGH HARLAN RYKER TOOK AWAY YOUR LIFE AND TURNED YOU INTO THE THING YOU MOST DESPISE...

...WHO WAS HIRED BY CLAYTON BURR TO KILL THEM TO EXACT REVENGE ON YOU.

...YOU AGREED TO BE HIS BODYGUARD IN THE HOPE OF RE-GAINING YOUR HUMANITY.

A DECISION THAT LED TO A JAILED RYKER ENLISTING THE MURDEROUS WARWOLF TO KILL ANY WHO MIGHT TESTIFY AGAINST HIM

YOU ALLOWED THIS MAN TO LIVE BUT YOU DID NOT HESITATE TO ATTEMPT THE MURDER OF SIEGE--

--YOUR COLLEAGUE WHO PREVENTED THE CYBERWARRIORS FROM STARTING ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

RYKER LATER HATCHED YET ANOTHER PLAN TO BUILD AN ARMY OF CYBERWARRIORS BIGGER BETTER VERSIONS OF YOURSELF, WITHOUT THE HUMAN THOUGHT PROCESS.

BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE HE WAS A LIVING BEING AT THE TIME--!

YOU DARE BLAME ME FOR THESE EVENTS? RYKER WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

I DIDN'T BREAK HIM OUT

AND THAT CYBERWARRIOR PROGRAM WAS N PLACE REGARDLESS! EVEN IF HE WERE DEAD IT WOULD HAVE GONE AHEAD!

AND WHAT OF YOUR REFUSAL TO HELP SAVE THE PEOPLE OF WAKANDA?

THEY WERE NOT ASKING YOU TO KILL FOR THEM MERELY TO HELP DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY WHEN IT WAS UNDER SIEGE.

A COUNTRY YOUR OWN FAMILY WAS VISITING

I HAD TO FIND MY SON--

YOU COULD HAVE DONE THAT AND THEN HELPED BUT YOU SIMPLY REFUSED

ONLY WHEN YOU FOUND A DEAD BOY WHO RESEMBLED NICK DID YOU HELP

YOU HAD TO BE SHAMED INTO DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT INSTEAD OF EASIEST.

WORDS YOU'VE SPOKEN YOUR ENTIRE LIFE

I-I WAS SO OVERCOME WITH CONCERN OVER NICK.

. I NEVER MEANT TO TURN MY BACK ON AN ENTIRE COUNTRY...

YOU HAVE LIVED IN CONTRADICTION OF YOUR PRINCIPLES AND HAVE REFUSED TO SEE THINGS AS THEY ACTUALLY OCCUR

YOUR MORAL CONVICTIONS ARE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF MOTION, DEPENDING ON YOUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES!

AND IT IS OTHERS WHO SUFFER FROM YOUR HYPOCRISIES.

SO THIS SHOW I GOTTA SPEND MY ETERNITY

AIN'T NO WAY FOR A WAR HERO TA FACE OBLIVION

THIS IS WORSE THAN BE'N NOTHIN'! WORSE THAN NOT BE'IN ABLE TO FEEL ANYTHING I DO AS SIEGE

YET YA VOLUNTEERED TO BECOME JUST THAT, JOHN KELLY

HAD YA REMAINED IN THE DEATHLOK CYBORG YA WOULDA HAD NO CONTROL WHATSOE'ER OVER YOUR ACTIONS

THAT CYBORG WASN'T BUILT FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD--

--T WAS BU LT FOR DESTRUCTION AT THE WHIM OF THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

YA'D HAVE BEEN PASSENGER ON A ROCKET-R DE TO THE END OF ALL YOU EVER BEL EVED IN

YA'D BE TRAITOR TO YOUR COUNTRY AND ALL WHO FIGHT TO PRESERVE FREEDOM WITHOUT BE.NG ABLE TO L FT A FINGER TO STOP YOURSELF.

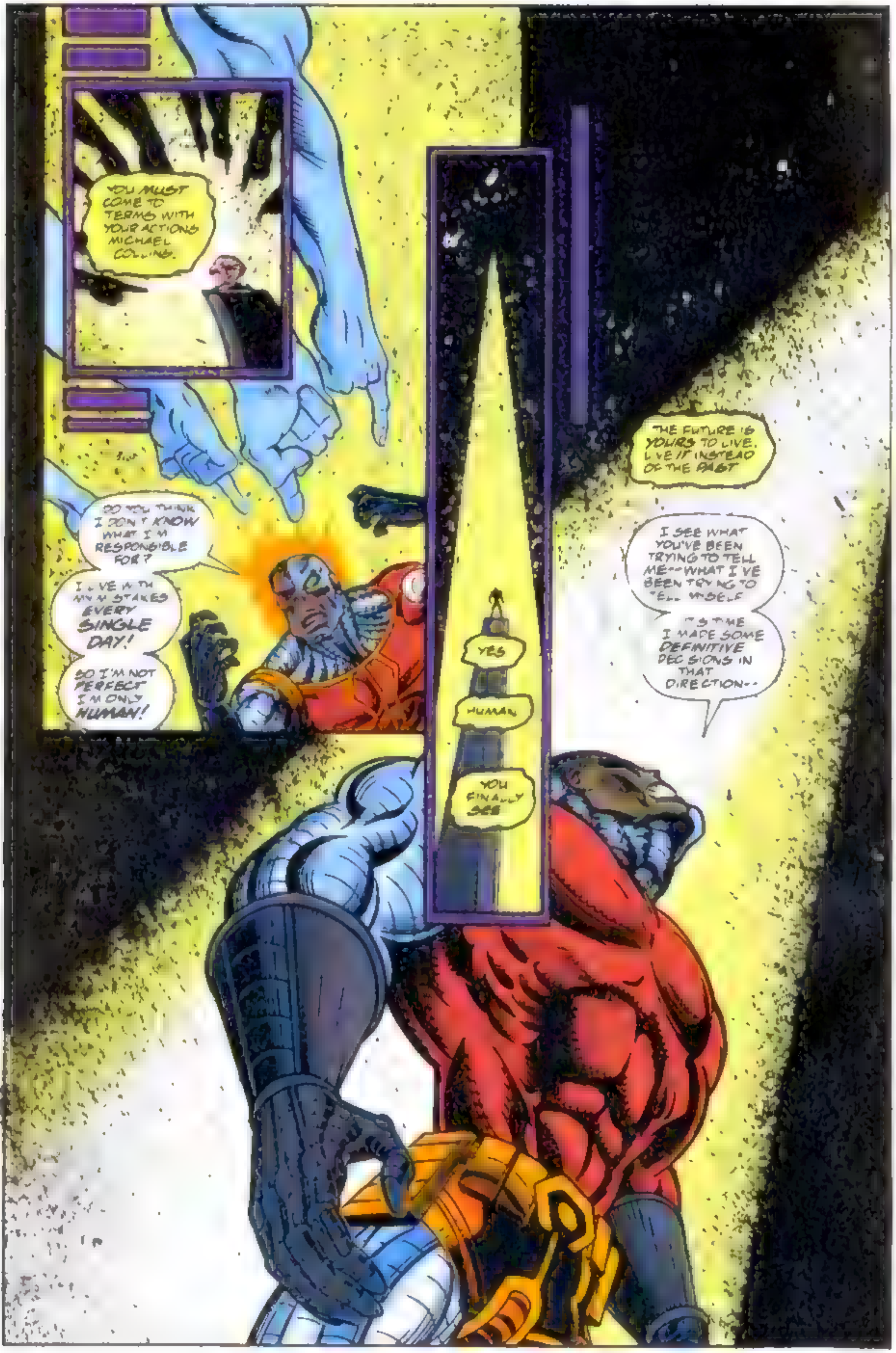
SO THIS IS SOME KINDA KARMA? A CHANCE AT... LIFE?

AM I, ALIVE? NOT JUST A MESS A MEMORIES--

LIVING IS A STATE OF MIND..

AS SIEGE, YA MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PHYSICALLY FEEL THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE, BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE YOUR ACTIONS!

AS DEATHLOK YOU WERE BETTER OFF A CORPSE!


YOU MUST COME TO TERMS WITH YOUR ACTIONS MICHAEL COLLINS.
DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR?
I LIVE WITH MY STAKES EVERY SINGLE DAY!
SO I'M NOT PERFECT I'M ONLY HUMAN!
YES
HUMAN
YOU FINALLY SEE
THE FUTURE IS YOURS TO LIVE. LIVE IT INSTEAD OF THE PAST
I SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME--WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL MYSELF
THE TIME I MADE SOME DEFINITIVE DECISIONS IN THAT DIRECTION--

AS QUICKLY AS IT CAME THE FIRE OF PURIFICATION VANISHES LEAVING VIRTUALLY NO PHYSICAL TRACE OF ITS PRESENCE.

DID YOU--

WHOA!

YEAH

THAT WAS ONE ABYSS I DON'T EVER WANNA LOOK BACK INTO.

SIEGE FOR ONCE I AGREE

LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO DWELL IN THE PAST.

NOW IT'S TIME I MAKE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET, IN NEW YORK CITY, TOUGH DECISIONS ARE ALSO THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION.

TRACY YOU'VE GOT TO FACE IT EVER SINCE MICHAEL CAME BACK INTO YOUR LIFE AS THAT...THAT... THING--

THAT'S MY [redacted] YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. HE'S NOT A 'THING', ARLENE.

WELL EXCUSE MY VOCABULARY GIRL BUT YOUR HUSBAND IS THE REASON YOU AND YOUR BOY AND BABY GIRL ALMOST GOT REFR'ED IN THE HOUSE FIRE!*

AND EVERY TIME MICHAEL GOES AND DOES THE HERO THING, HE MAKES ANOTHER ENEMY THAT'S MORE THAN HAPPY TO COME AND BUMP YOUR MUCH TOO SKINNY BOOTY OFF!

MICHAEL IS MY HUSBAND! AND HIS SENSE OF HEROISM, IS WHAT GOT ME TO SAY YES WHEN HE PROPOSED IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YOU CAN CLEAN THAT UP WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU! DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY ENEMIES THESE HEROES HAVE?

*IN DEATHLOK #26.--TOM

THAT NUMBER DOESN'T FIT ON FINGERS AND TOES

AND THE CLOSER YOU ARE TO THAT CYBORG, THE MORE YOUR CHILDREN ARE GONNA PAY FOR HIS ACTIONS.

I KNOW HOW MUCH DANGER MICHAEL REPRESENTS, AND I KNOW I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SOON--

--BUT THIS ISN'T EASY!

THIS AIN'T HAPPENING MOM CAN'T BE BUYIN' INTO AUNT ARLENE'S LINE ABOUT DAD!

I AIN'T GONNA LET IT HAPPEN WITHOUT A FIGHT!

ENEMY

CIVILIAN

ENEMY

DANGER

TRAINING COUR

LIVE AMMU

N US

FORT BENNING WHERE THE ONLY THING HOTTER THAN THE SUN IS THE REAL LIFE DANGER PRESENTED IN THE LIVE AMMO DRILLS

I USED TO GET A KICK OUT OF THESE DAREDEVIL TYPE ROUTINES MIKE BUT NOW--

HUH! THAT AIN'T THE LUTHER MANNING I KNOW

YOU'RE ALWAYS UP FOR A FIGHT WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?

I'M PUTTING IN MY RESIGNATION

I DON'T HEAR THAT. LET ME AGAIN

I'M OUT OF HERE. I'VE HAD AN EPIPHANY OF SORTS--

I'M JUST A LITTLE SINGED, BUT STAY BACK--

LUTHER

SOMETHING'S NOT R GHT

YEAH WELL NO WOMAN IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR--HEY!

WAKE UP AND HEAR YOU GOT ONE WITH YOUR NAME--

THOOM

AHHH!

TO BE CONTINUED!

CYBERSTRIKE PROLOGUE

I AM **UATU**, ONE OF **MANY** WATCHERS IT HAS BEEN OUR TASK TO **OBSERVE** THE MYRIAD ALTERNATE REALITIES AS THEY UNFOLD.

IN **THIS** REALITY MANY YEARS AGO, A TERRIBLE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY CALLED THE **NTH PROJECTOR** STOLE AWAY THE WORLD'S SUPER-BEINGS, PAVING THE PATH FOR A GREAT **WAR** THAT BECAME THE **RUIN** OF THIS SOC ETY

HERE, WE ARE ONCE MORE AT A **CROSSROADS** IN TIME. WHERE THOSE WHO SEEK TO ALTER THAT WHICH IS THE **NOW** PLAY OUT THE R UNHOLY OPERA BEFORE OUR EYES.

ALL **I** MAY DO, ALAS, IS WATCH

MUTANTS

HEY, MY FREAKIN PACK!

WELL, ISN'T **THIS** A DELICIOUS LITTLE NUMBER?

YEH THET VARMINT OUGHT NOT TUH TURN HIS BACK ON STUFF LIKE THET!

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RICHARDSON & TUOHY- NKERS
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DAVID SHARPE- LETTERER
TOM BREVOORT- EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO- CHIEF

KRAKOA

HIM IT IS. ENDED IS MY QUEST

NICE BIONICS. NEW

COUPLE OF DAYS MEAT ON HIS BONES TOO.

NOT APPRECIATED ARE YOUR COMMENTS

SHAZAM

FRESH MEAT!

FOR THE CANNIBALS, NO WASTE.

SCAVENGERS I HATE SCAVENGERS!

I SAID-- GIMME THE PACK BACK NOW!

BLAM BLAMM BLAM

VRRRMMMMM

THAM

YEH! KNOCKED HIS BUTT OFF!

A DELICATE MANUEVER PERFORMED WITH EXCEPTIONAL PRECISION.

THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE?

SHIKK

SHAKK

FREAKIN ARM.

GOTTA TRY AN' KEEP THE HUMVEE IN ONE PIECE!

HEY! THET GUY'S BACK AGIN!

SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY PACK WHILE I WAS LOOKIN' FOR PARTS!

GUESS I DON'T GET A WORKIN' VEHICLE TODAY.

BA-THOOM

S GONNA GO BOOM! WE STUCK

RRRN CH

AIN T GONNA LEAVE US HEAH--

HELP US OUT OF -- HEY! THET S OUR STUFF!

WAS.

SNAP KRAK KRUNCH

ARRGHH!

WHAMM

UHHHGH!

NICE GUN.

NO PLEASE-- WE'D RATHER KEEP THE LIFE WE HAVE--

LIKE I CARE. I AIN'T *KILLIN'* YA--

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

THUK THUK THUK THUK THUK

--JUST LEAVIN' YA AS FAST FOOD FOR THE FLESH-EATERS...

NOOO! OH MY *GODDDD!* *AEEEIIII!*

ADMIRED *YOU* FROM AFAR, I HAVE.

THE TRUE DEATHLOK THE DEMOLISHER YOU ARE. WITH ME YOU MUST COME.

YEAH? WELL I'M REAL SICK A PEOPLE PLAYING SCAVENGER W TH ME SO YOU GOT TWO SECONDS TO BEAT THE STREET BEFORE I CUT YA INTO MORE PIECES THAN YOU CAN COUNT!

TIMESTREAM I AM HERE TO GIVE, NOT TO TAKE.

TRUE DEATHLOK? NOT ANYMORE SLICK I'M JUST THE DEMOLISHER NOW AND I AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE!

YOUR HUMANITY AND WORLD CAN I RETURN TO YOU. ALL TO BE EXPLAINED SOON.

ALL TO BE RECTIFIED IN THE PAST, FOR SAKE OF THE FUTURE.

LEGGO!

I AIN'T GOT *MUCH* TA LOSE, BUT I HOLD ON *TIGHT* AN' AIN'T GOT A PROBLEM TEARING YOU A NEW~

YES. A DEAD MAN MIGHT I BE THE *TRUE* DEMOLISHER ARE YOU.

VIZIGRAPH

ELSEWHERE, THE RAVAGES OF TIME REVEAL A MUCH DIFFERENT LADY LIBERTY.

AND INSIDE, THE MAN KNOWN AS **GODMULE** *FROWNS.*

TIMESTREAM SO YOU HAVE *RETURNED* FROM YOUR BANISHMENT

THE TIMEFLUX HAS BEEN TRIGGERED.

IT SEEMS YOU'VE TAKEN THE *DEMOLISHER* FROM US.

THE MOST *HEINOUS* OF *HARBINGERS* IS THIS...

DON'T EVEN **THINK** *OF MISSING OUT NEXT ISSUE AS CYBERSTRIKE HURTLES INTO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF EVERYTHING YOU* **THINK** *YOU KNOW.*

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AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
SILVER SABLE
WILD PACK
THE #1 ACTION-PACKED COMIC OF THE 90's!
FEATURING THE
INTRUDERS!
DIRECT EDITION
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RELENTLESSLY TRAINED IN MULTIPLE FORMS OF COMBAT, INHERITOR OF HER FATHER'S PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER UNIT, THE WILDPACK, FOUNDER OF SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL, THE ULTIMATE MERCENARY FORCE, LEADER OF HER HOMELAND HOMELAND, SYMKARIA.
STAN LEE PRESENTS...
SILVER SABLE & THE WILD PACK
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ENLISTED THE SERVICES OF SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL TO INSURE THAT SHIPMENTS OF FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES WERE SAFELY DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTION CENTERS WITHIN SOMALIA
DUE TO AN UNKNOWN PSYCHIC INTERVENTION, A SORT OF ENLIGHTENMENT HAS SWEPT OVER MUCH OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION.
PEACE AND GOODWILL HAS REPLACED WAR AND HOSTILITY
ONE WHO HAS REMAINED UNAFFECTED INSISTS ON TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.
I'M THE BARON VON STRUCKER.
THE RECENT PEACE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS OUTLASTED ITS WELCOME.
I CLAIM IT NOW IN THE NAME OF HYDRA FOR THE SOUTHERN WARLORDS.
I HAVE CONVINCED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT IF NECESSARY. DO I HEAR ANY OBJECTIONS?
HEY! HAIL HYDRA!
I OBJECT
MORE FIGHT!
ENLIGHTENED ALLIES!!
GREGORY WRIGHT WRITER
STEVEN BUTLER PENCILER
PAM EKLUND INKER
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
JOE ROSAS COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
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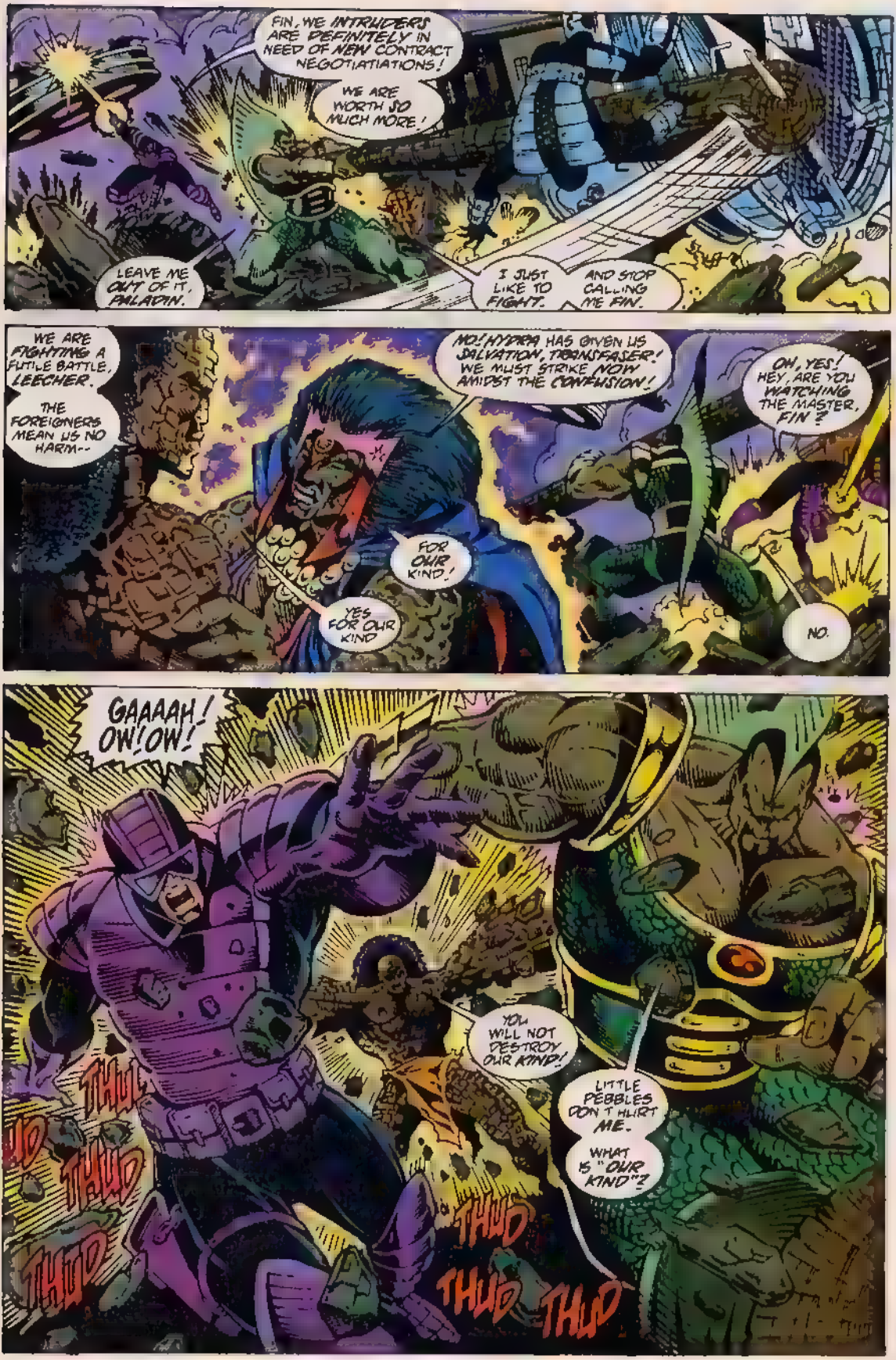
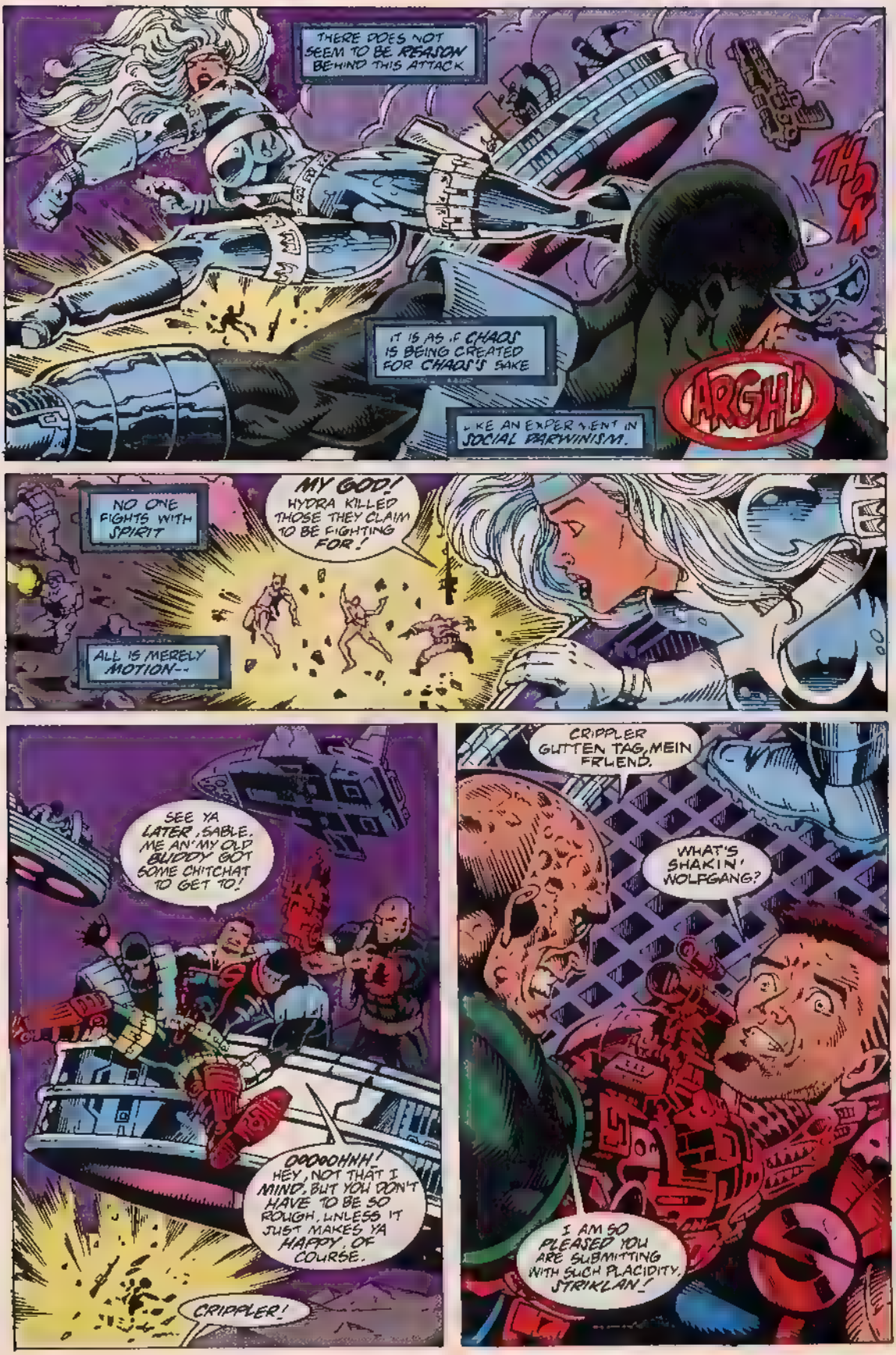
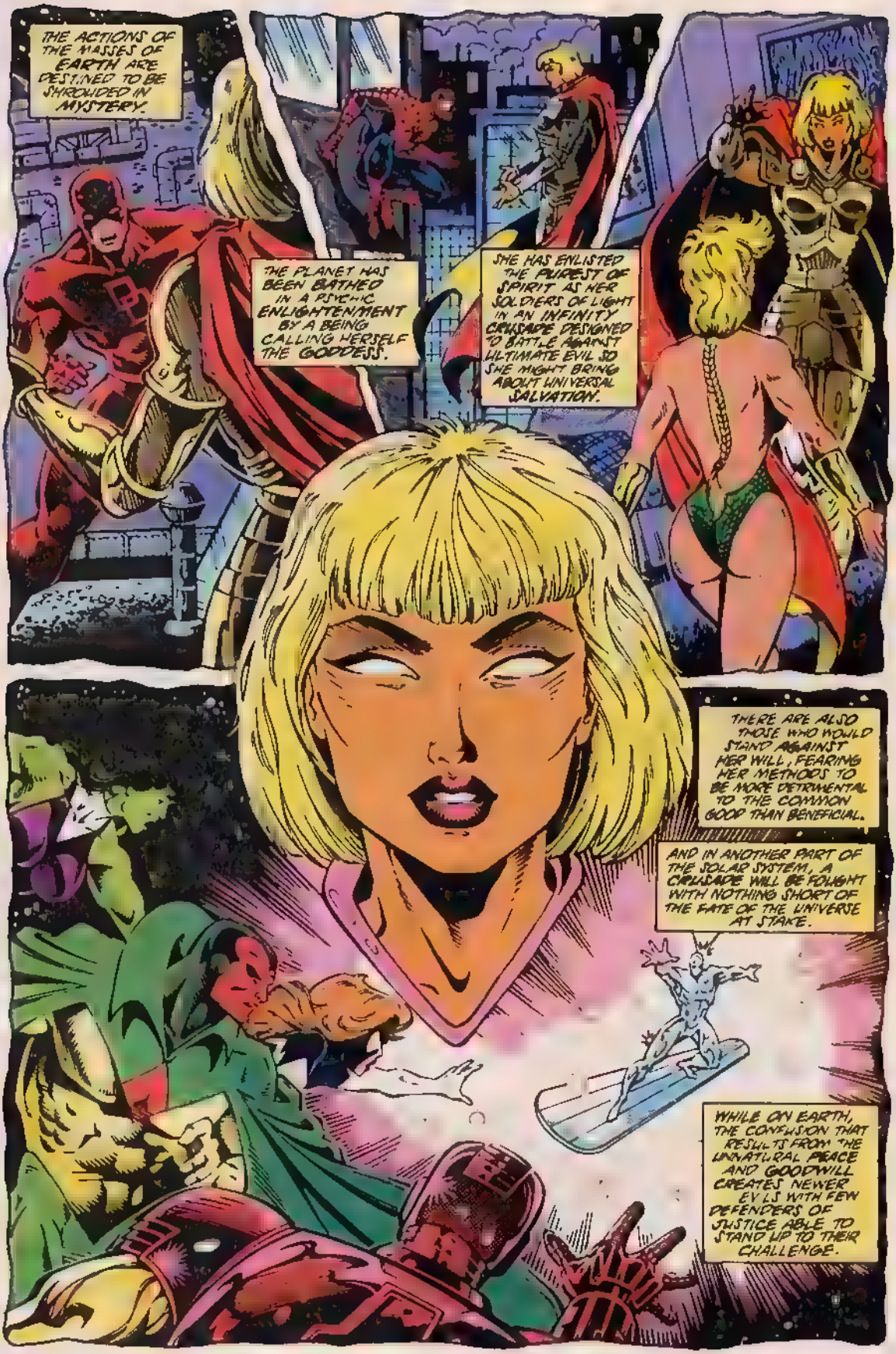
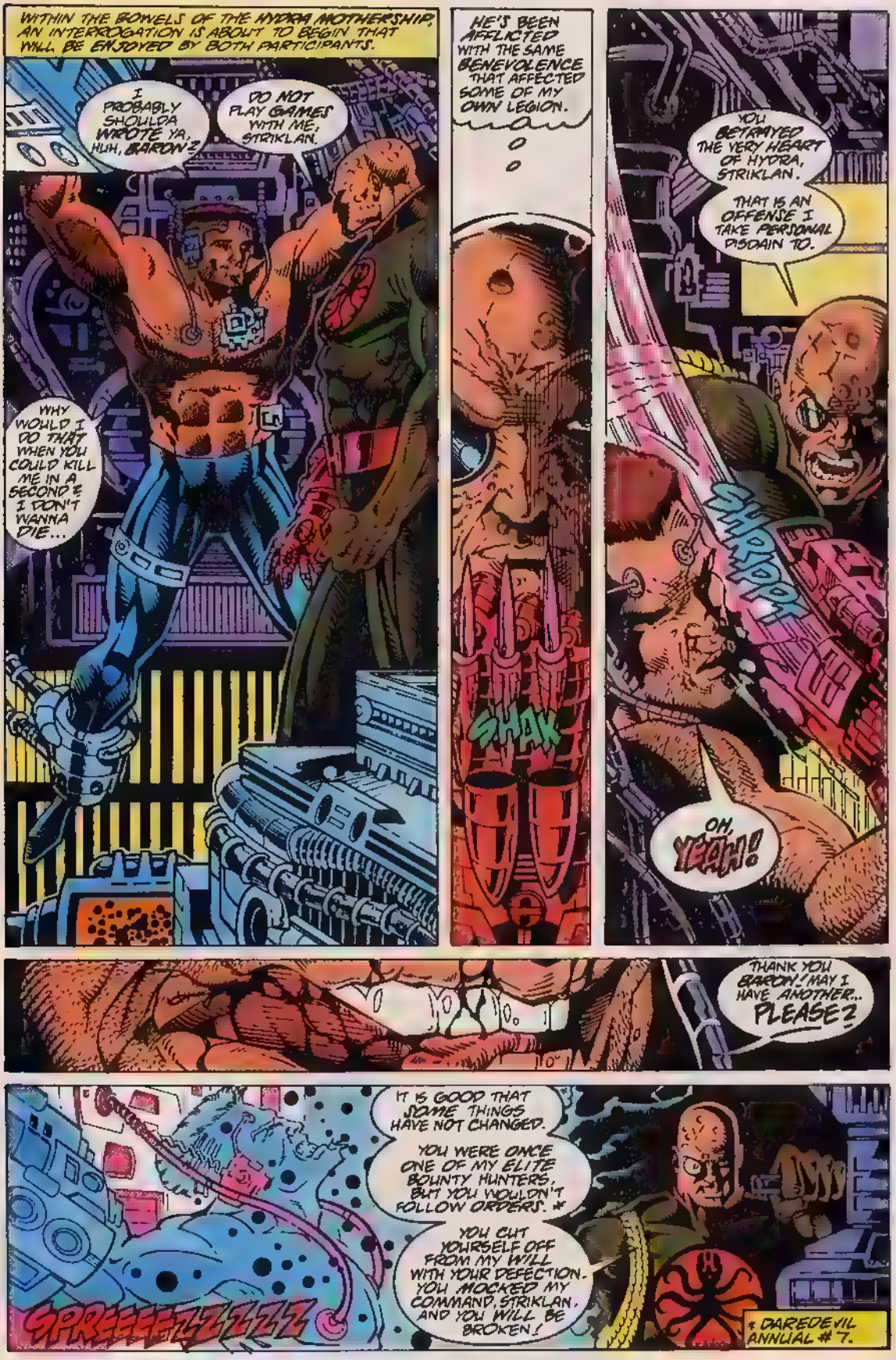
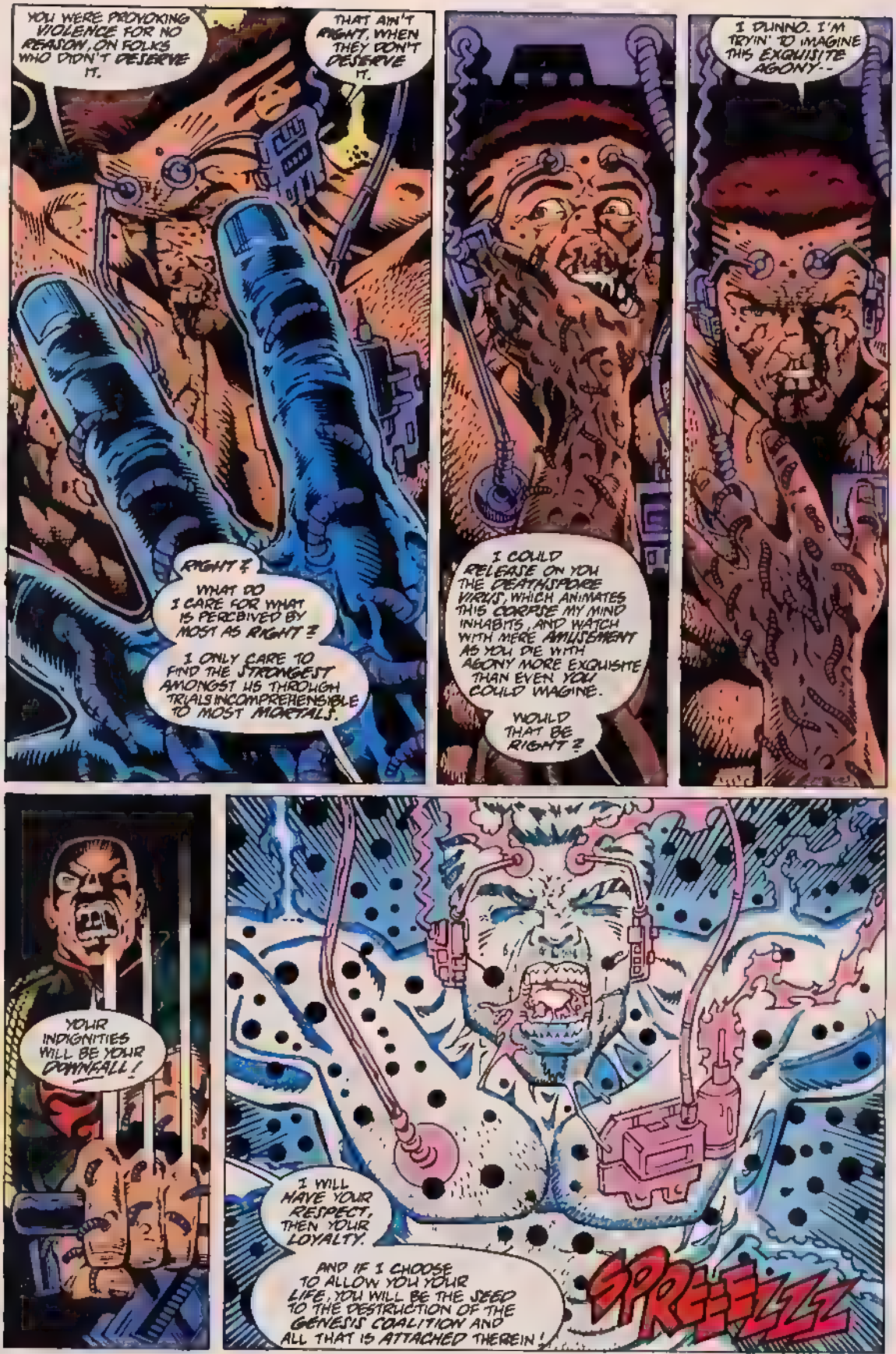
AS I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD
WILD PACK! STOP GAWKING AND FALL INTO FORMATIONS!
CHROOM
SHAZZT
MY WILD PACK DOES NOT USUALLY RECOGNIZE A CALL TO ACTION
I MYSELF FEEL A COMPULSION TO OFFER PASSIVE RESISTANCE THERE'S SOMETHING AMISS HERE OTHER THAN THE OBVIOUS HYDRA INVASION
YAHH!
NO!
THIS IS ALL INSANE. THE FIGHTING'S GOTTA STOP!
IT'S OKAY, MA'AM-- I WON'T LET 'EM HURT YOU ANYMORE
Y-YOU SAVED ME, EVEN THOUGH MY MUTANT GROUP, THE BIO-GENES TRIED TO KILL YOU ALL--
WE SHOULDN'T BE FIGHTING OVER TERRITORY. WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP THE HUNGER.
OHHH


FIN, WE INTRUDERS ARE DEFINITELY IN NEED OF NEW CONTRACT NEGOTIATIATIONS!
WE ARE WORTH SO MUCH MORE!
LEAVE ME OUT OF IT, PALADIN.
I JUST LIKE TO FIGHT.
AND STOP CALLING ME FIN.
WE ARE FIGHTING A FUTILE BATTLE, LEECHER.
THE FOREIGNERS MEAN US NO HARM--
NO! HYDRA HAS GIVEN US SALVATION, TRANSFASER! WE MUST STRIKE NOW AMIDST THE CONFUSION!
OH, YES! HEY, ARE YOU WATCHING THE MASTER, FIN?
FOR OUR KIND!
YES FOR OUR KIND
NO.
GAAAAH! OW! OW!
THUD
THUD
THUD
YOU WILL NOT DESTROY OUR KIND!
LITTLE PEBBLES DON'T HURT ME.
WHAT IS "OUR KIND"?
THUD
THUD
THUD


THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE REASON BEHIND THIS ATTACK
IT IS AS IF CHAOS IS BEING CREATED FOR CHAOS'S SAKE
LIKE AN EXPERIMENT IN SOCIAL DARWINISM.
THOK
ARGH!
NO ONE FIGHTS WITH SPIRIT
MY GOD! HYDRA KILLED THOSE THEY CLAIM TO BE FIGHTING FOR!
ALL IS MERELY MOTION--
SEE YA LATER, SABLE. ME AN' MY OLD BUDDY GOT SOME CHITCHAT TO GET TO!
OOOOOHNH! HEY, NOT THAT I MIND, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ROUGH, UNLESS IT JUST MAKES YA HAPPY, OF COURSE.
CRIPPLER!
CRIPPLER GUTTEN TAG, MEIN FRUEND.
WHAT'S SHAKIN', WOLFGANG?
I AM SO PLEASED YOU ARE SUBMITTING WITH SUCH PLACIDITY, STRIKLAN!


THE ACTIONS OF THE MASSES OF EARTH ARE DESTINED TO BE SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
THE PLANET HAS BEEN BATHED IN A PSYCHIC ENLIGHTENMENT BY A BEING CALLING HERSELF THE GODDESS.
SHE HAS ENLISTED THE PUREST OF SPIRIT AS HER SOLDIERS OF LIGHT IN AN INFINITY CRUSADE DESIGNED TO BATTLE AGAINST ULTIMATE EVIL SO SHE MIGHT BRING ABOUT UNIVERSAL SALVATION.
THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO WOULD STAND AGAINST HER WILL, FEARING HER METHODS TO BE MORE DETRIMENTAL TO THE COMMON GOOD THAN BENEFICIAL.
AND IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, A CRUSADE WILL BE FOUGHT WITH NOTHING SHORT OF THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE AT STAKE.
WHILE ON EARTH, THE CONFUSION THAT RESULTS FROM THE UNNATURAL PEACE AND GOODWILL CREATES NEWER EVILS WITH FEW DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE ABLE TO STAND UP TO THEIR CHALLENGE.


WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE HYDRA MOTHERSHIP, AN INTERROGATION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN THAT WILL BE ENJOYED BY BOTH PARTICIPANTS.
I PROBABLY SHOULDA WROTE YA, HUH, BARON?
DO NOT PLAY GAMES WITH ME, STRIKLAN.
WHY WOULD I DO THAT WHEN YOU COULD KILL ME IN A SECOND & I DON'T WANNA DIE...
HE'S BEEN AFFLICTED WITH THE SAME BENEVOLENCE THAT AFFECTED SOME OF MY OWN LEGION.
O
O
SHAK
YOU BETRAYED THE VERY HEART OF HYDRA, STRIKLAN.
THAT IS AN OFFENSE I TAKE PERSONAL DISDAIN TO.
SHRIPP
OH, YEAH!
THANK YOU BARON! MAY I HAVE ANOTHER... PLEASE?
IT IS GOOD THAT SOME THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED.
YOU WERE ONCE ONE OF MY ELITE BOUNTY HUNTERS, BUT YOU WOULDN'T FOLLOW ORDERS. *
YOU CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM MY WILL WITH YOUR DEFECTION. YOU MOCKED MY COMMAND, STRIKLAN, AND YOU WILL BE BROKEN!
SPREEEEZZZZZ
* DAREDEVIL ANNUAL # 7.

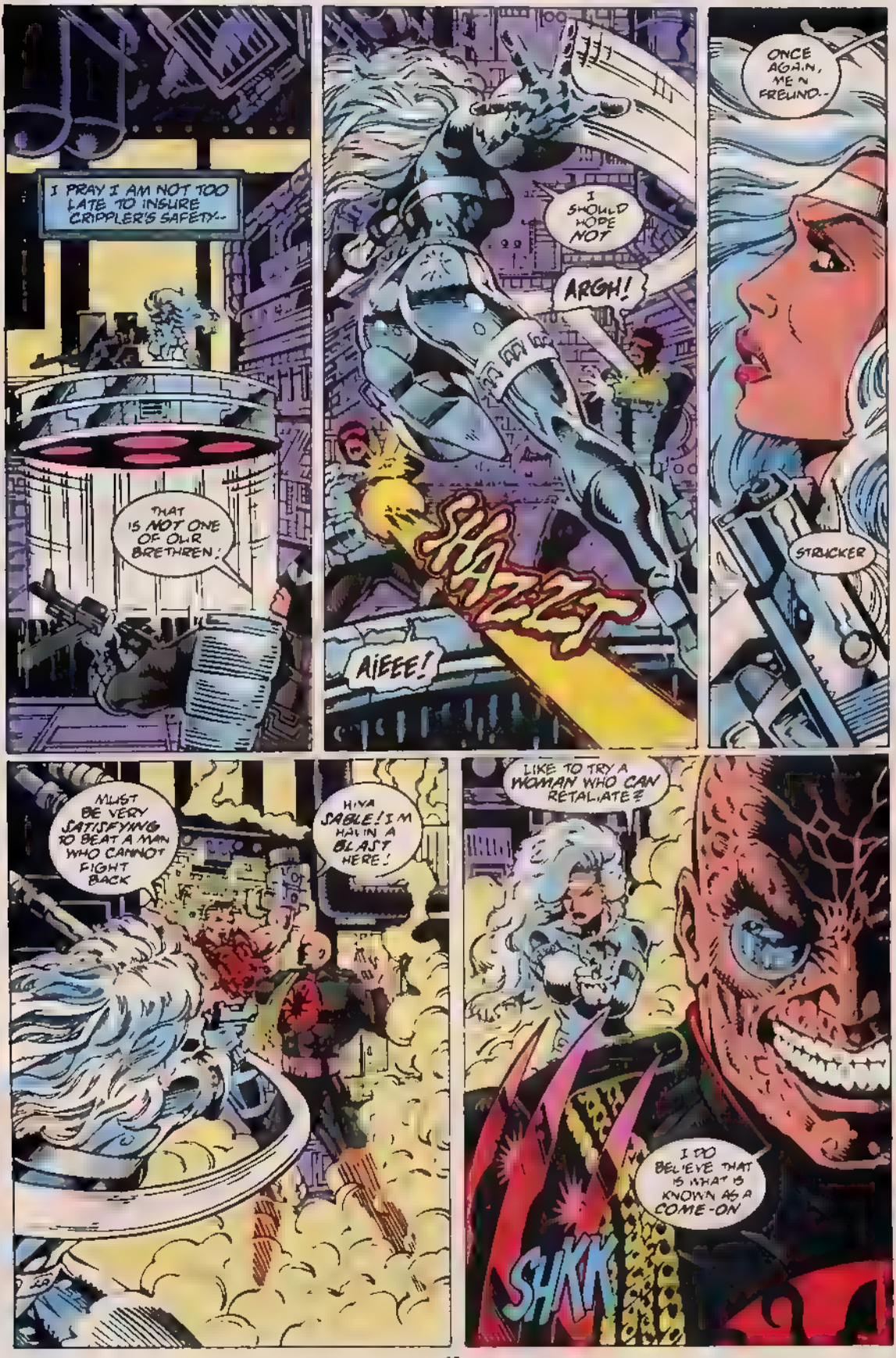

YOU WERE PROVOKING VIOLENCE FOR NO REASON, ON FOLKS WHO DIDN'T DESERVE IT.
THAT AIN'T RIGHT, WHEN THEY DON'T DESERVE IT.
RIGHT?
WHAT DO I CARE FOR WHAT IS PERCEIVED BY MOST AS RIGHT?
I ONLY CARE TO FIND THE STRONGEST AMONGST US THROUGH TRIALS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO MOST MORTALS.
I COULD RELEASE ON YOU THE DEATHSPOKE VIRUS, WHICH ANIMATES THIS CORPSE MY MIND INHABITS, AND WATCH WITH MERE AMUSEMENT AS YOU DIE WITH AGONY MORE EXQUISITE THAN EVEN YOU COULD IMAGINE.
WOULD THAT BE RIGHT?
I DUNNO. I'M TRYIN' TO IMAGINE THIS EXQUISITE AGONY--
YOUR INDIGNITIES WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL!
I WILL HAVE YOUR RESPECT, THEN YOUR LOYALTY.
AND IF I CHOOSE TO ALLOW YOU YOUR LIFE, YOU WILL BE THE SEED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GENESIS COALITION AND ALL THAT IS ATTACHED THEREIN!
SPREEEZZ

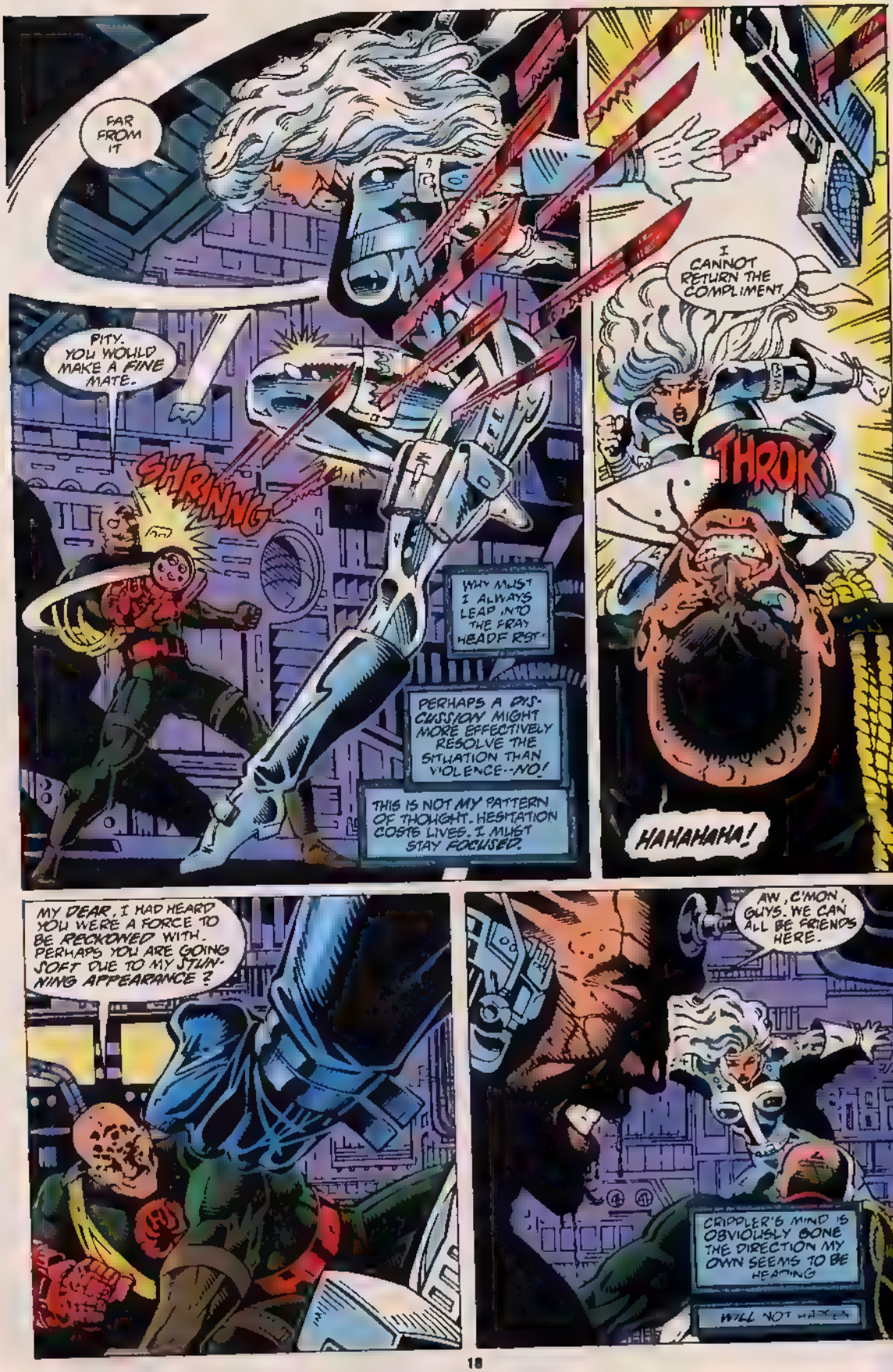
BACK IN THE THICK OF IT...
YOU ARE OF OUR KIND, MY MISGUIDED BRETHREN! JOIN WITH ME--
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
YOU MUSTN'T BE THE DEATH OF US ALL!
KWUD!
WE MUST WORK TOGETHER AGAINST HYDRA!
NICE KITTY.
PURRR.
NOW I KNOW THIS ISN'T NORMAL...
PERHAPS IF YOU SAW THINGS AS I DO...
IT IS ALL I CAN DO TO STAY FOCUSED, AND I WILL NOT ALLOW MY MIND TO BE ALTERED IN ANY WAY.
KRAK
JOIN ME, BEFORE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO FIGHT FOR.
THIS OFFER IS GOOD FOR TWO SECONDS BEFORE I DO SOME PERMANENT DAMAGE.
PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT.

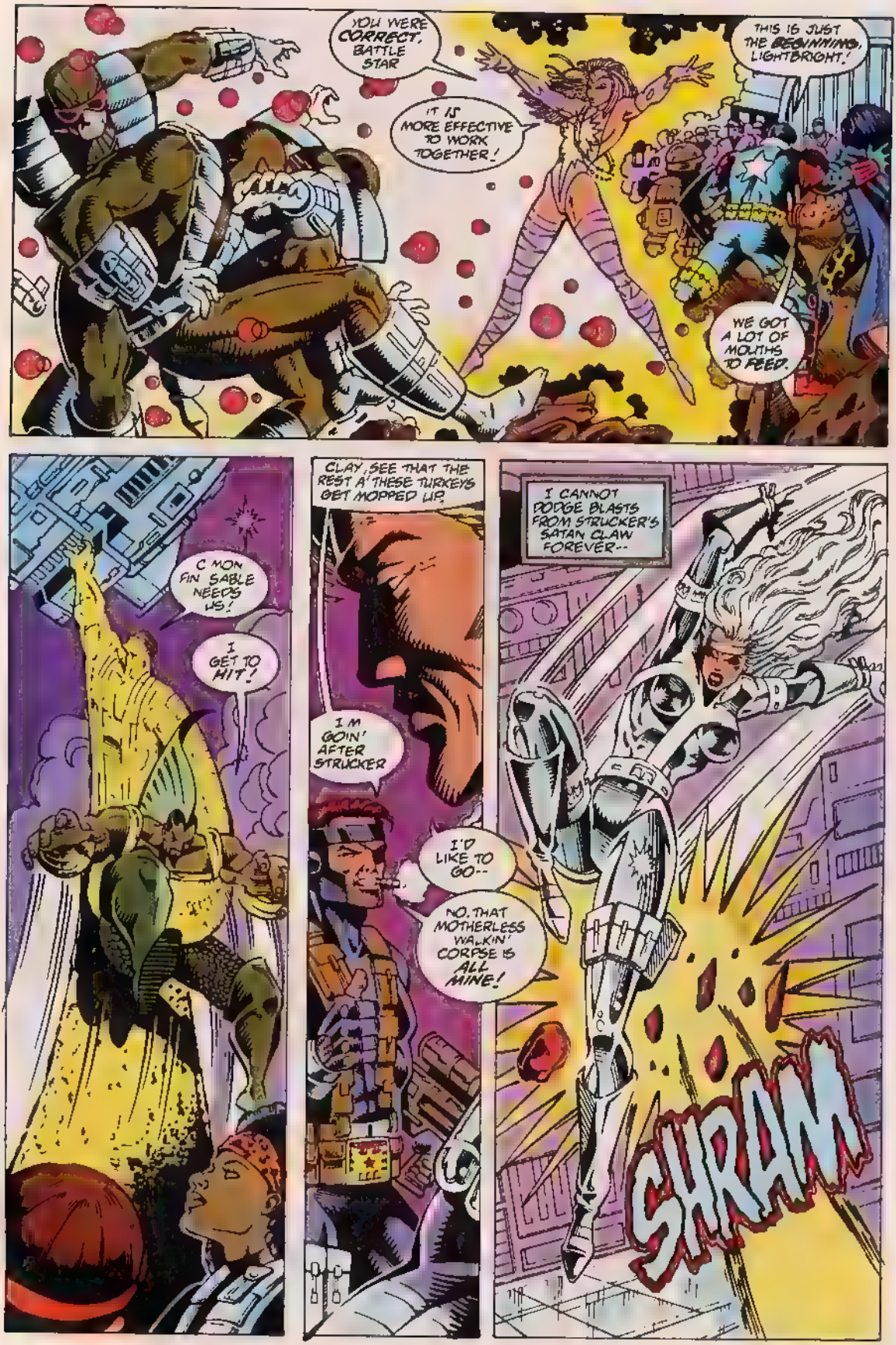
YOU CAN START BY PUTTING FIN AND MANEATER BACK IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS, AND CONTINUING TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO BRING THIS CONFLICT TO A SWIFT END.
YES.
STRANGE, THIS WOMAN'S MASTERY OVER ME.
PERHAPS IT IS THE SENSE OF RESPECT AND TRUST I PERCEIVED WITHIN HER.
STRUCKER HAS NOTHING TO GAIN THROUGH THIS BATTLE.
YET THE BATTLE SERVED AS AN EFFECTIVE DISTRACTION TO ALLOW CRIPPLER'S ABDUCTION.
THEIR PASTS MUST BE CONNECTED DEEPER THAN I WAS ABLE TO DETECT.
FATHER'S LIFELONG DREAM WAS TO SEE HYDRA AND THE BARON'S DESTRUCTION.
TONIGHT I FINALLY GET A SHOT AT FULFILLING IT.
BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ONE OF MY OWN
FATHER WOULD FROWN ON SUCH COMPASSION
BUT HE DOES NOT PULL MY STRINGS ANYMORE.

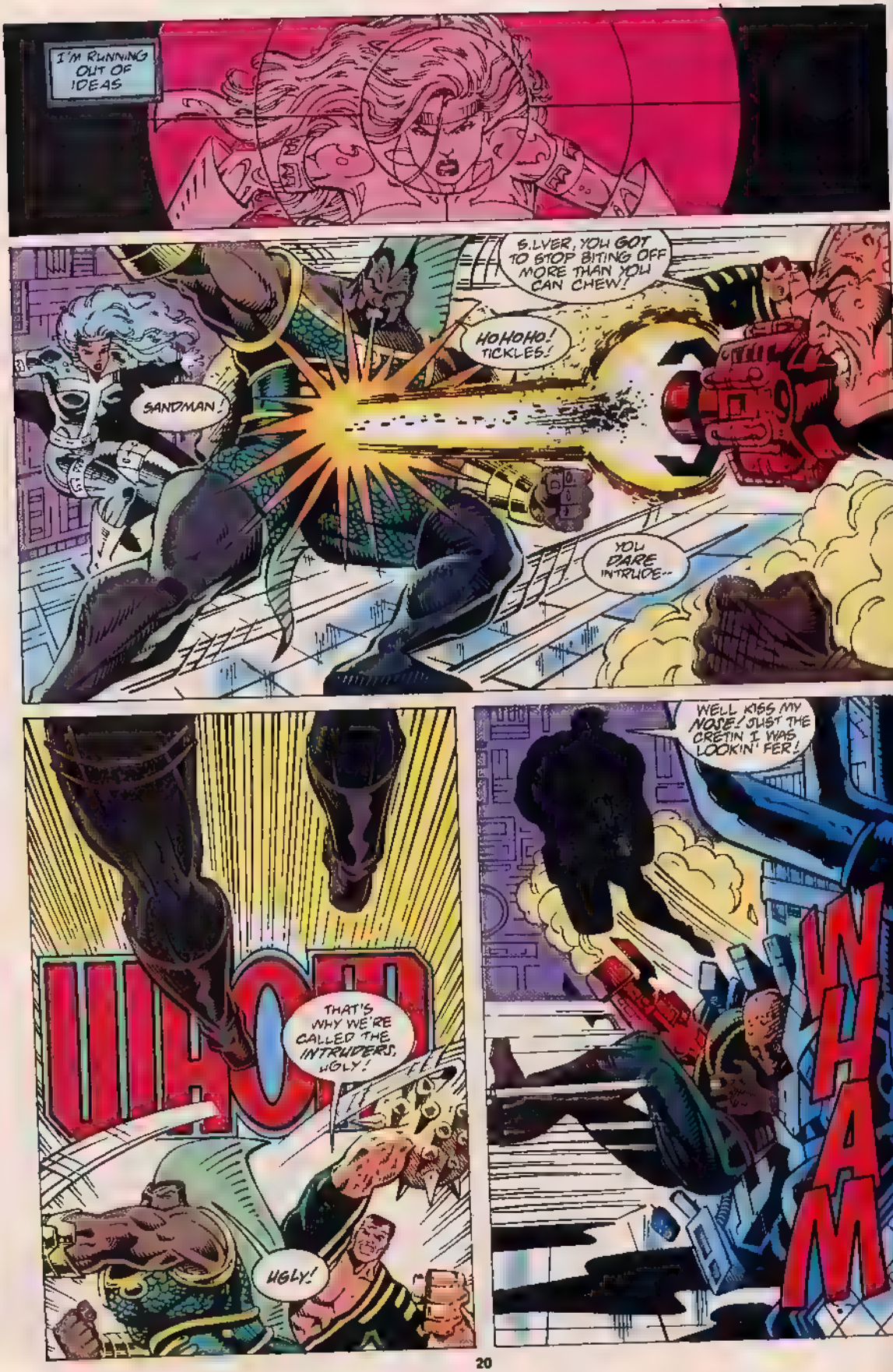
SILVER SABLE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A GRUDGE TO BEAR AGAINST STRUCKER
THE APPEARANCE OF THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER IN THE SKY ABOVE SOMALIA HERALDS THE INTERVENTION OF THE WORLD'S MOST FEARED SECURITY.
AND IT IS LED BY A MAN WHO'S SEEN IT ALL, AND BEATEN IT ALL.
COLONEL NICHOLAS FURY.
YET, BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER IS THE ONE ENEMY WHO HAS ELUDED HIM TIME AFTER TIME.
I KNEW THAT JACKAL STRUCKER COULDN'T HAVE DIED IN ICELAND.*
I AIN'T LETTIN' HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME.
YA DIDN'T LET HIM GET AWAY THEN, NICK.
WE ALL KNEW HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DEAD. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
*S.H.I.E.L.D. #47.
HE WAS GONNA SURFACE SOMETIME. IT JUST DON'T FOLLOW WHAT HE'S DOIN' IN SOMALIA.
PERHAPS HE HAS CHANGED HIS WAYS. IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATION--
WHAT'RE YA TALKIN' OUTTA THE SIDE A' YER HEAD FER--
--AW-- CRIPES, NOW CLAY'S INFECTED WITH THAT PSYCHIC GOODNESS WE PICKED UP ON THE ESPERLINK.
WHY SO TENSE?
AWRIGHT, DUM DUM, GET WHOEVER'S GOT ENOUGH SENSE LEFT IN 'EM AND MOUNT A WAGON TRAIN ASSAULT ON HYDRA--
--BEFORE THIS THING ESCALATES OUTTA CONTROL

CLAY, I AIN'T SURE YOU RE UP TA--
LIVES ARE AT STAKE. I'M HERE TO SAVE THE WORLD.
WOO, HOW DID YOU GUYS KEEP FROM PUKING EVERY TIME HIS MOUTH WAS OPEN?
WE NEVER LISTENED TO HIM, PIERCE
GOOD PLAN.
AWRIGHT, YA BUNCH A' GOLDBRICKS, CUT THE CHATTER AN' MAKE 'EM SCATTER!
DON'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S MUCH LEFT TA SCATTER--
WHAT IN SAM HILL--
--HYDRA AGENTS JUST LAYING DOWN THEIR ARMS?
WHAT'S GOIN' ON? EVERYBODY JUST GOT TIRED A' FIGHTIN'? SOMETHIN'S ROTTEN HERE, EVEN THOUGH THE RESULT IS A HECKUVA LOT BETTER THAN THE USUAL KILL THE ENEMY SOLUTION..
..I GOTTA KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS!


I PRAY I AM NOT TOO LATE TO INSURE CRIPPLER'S SAFETY--
THAT IS NOT ONE OF OUR BRETHREN!
I SHOULD HOPE NOT
ARGH!
SHAZZT
AIEEE!
ONCE AGAIN, MEIN FREUND--
STRICKER
MUST BE VERY SATISFYING TO BEAT A MAN WHO CANNOT FIGHT BACK
HIYA SABLE! I'M HAVIN A BLAST HERE!
LIKE TO TRY A WOMAN WHO CAN RETALIATE?
I DO BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS A COME-ON
SHKK


FAR FROM IT
PITY. YOU WOULD MAKE A FINE MATE.
SHRINNG
WHY MUST I ALWAYS LEAP INTO THE FRAY HEADFIRST!
PERHAPS A DISCUSSION MIGHT MORE EFFECTIVELY RESOLVE THE SITUATION THAN VIOLENCE--NO!
THIS IS NOT MY PATTERN OF THOUGHT. HESITATION COSTS LIVES. I MUST STAY FOCUSED.
I CANNOT RETURN THE COMPLIMENT
THROK
HAHAHAHA!
MY DEAR, I HAD HEARD YOU WERE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. PERHAPS YOU ARE GOING SOFT DUE TO MY STUNNING APPEARANCE?
AW, C'MON, GUYS. WE CAN ALL BE FRIENDS HERE.
CRIDDLER'S MIND IS OBVIOUSLY GONE THE DIRECTION MY OWN SEEMS TO BE HEADING
WILL NOT HAPPEN

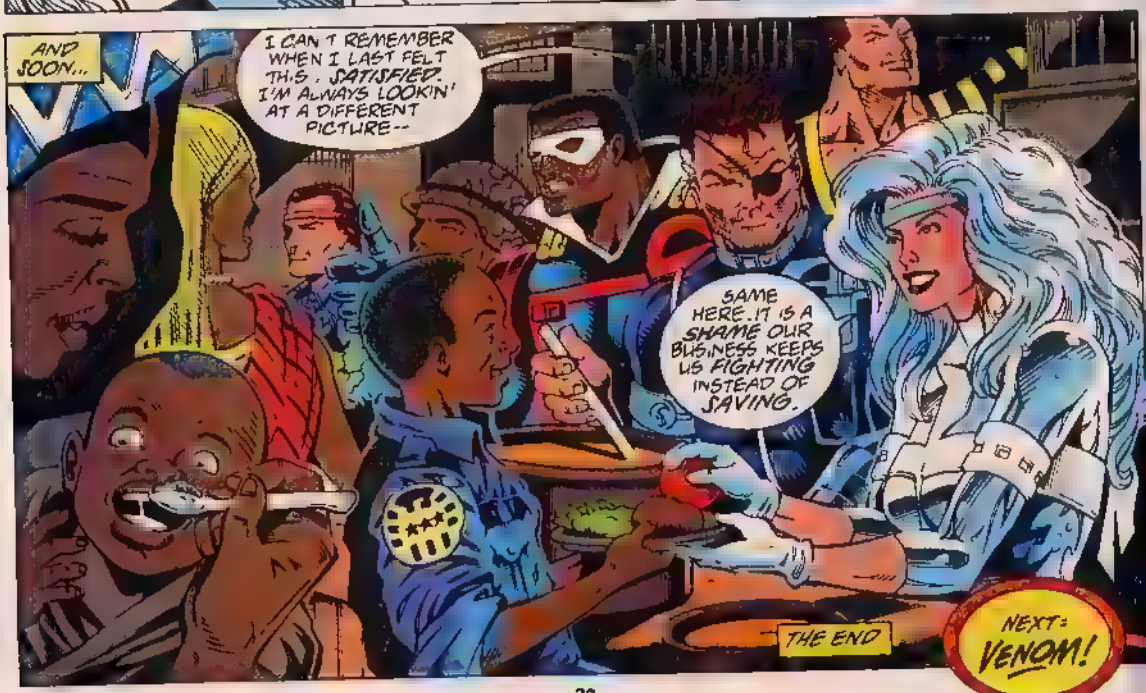

YOU WERE CORRECT, BATTLE STAR
IT IS MORE EFFECTIVE TO WORK TOGETHER!
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING, LIGHTBRIGHT!
WE GOT A LOT OF MOUTHS TO FEED.
C'MON FIN SABLE NEEDS US!
I GET TO HIT!
CLAY, SEE THAT THE REST A' THESE TURKEYS GET MOPPED UP.
I'M GOIN' AFTER STRUCKER
I'D LIKE TO GO--
NO. THAT MOTHERLESS WALKIN' CORPSE IS ALL MINE!
I CANNOT DODGE BLASTS FROM STRUCKER'S SATAN CLAW FOREVER--
SHRAM


I'M RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS
SILVER, YOU GOT TO STOP BITING OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW!
HOHOHO! TICKLES!
SANDMAN!
YOU DARE INTRUDE--
WHOOP
THAT'S WHY WE'RE CALLED THE INTRUDERS, UGLY!
UGLY!
WELL KISS MY NOSE! JUST THE CRETIN I WAS LOOKIN' FER!
WHAM

I'M A BIT DISAPPOINTED THAT IT WASN'T ME WHO PUT YA TO THE WALL.
HE'S MINE FURY.
NOT WITH THAT PEASHOOTER. I GOT SOMETH N' THAT'LL OBLITERATE BOTH HIM AND THAT GODFORSAKEN VIRUS HE CONTROLS!
SEEMS A BETTER AGENCY BEAT YOU TO THE FINISH LINE, NICHOLAS.
BIT OF A CHEAT TO GRAB THE GLORY YOURSELF.
I CAN'T SEEM TO PULL THE TRIGGER. THIS MAN EMBODIES ALL OF THE EVIL FATHER EVER SHOWED ME YET--
CAN'T KILL THE MAN IN COLD BLOOD. THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME GOOD--
SHRAK
YOUR MINDS ARE BEING MANIPULATED, MEIN FREUNDS.
A MOMENT'S HESITATION FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE PROVIDES AN ETERNITY OF SUFFERING FOR THE WORLD
ALIF WIEDERSEHEN!
ZZHHAAT

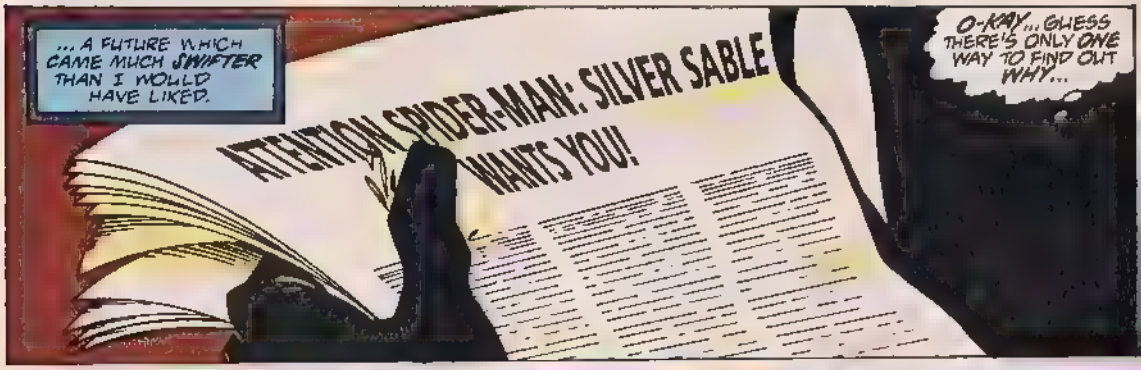
WHY? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO EVERYBODY? WE HAD STRUCKER RIGHT--
WE BEEN LIVIN' TA KILL HIM FER YEARS, AN' I AIN'T GOT AN ANSWER FER WHAT STOPPED US
THIS OP WAS UNDER CONTROL BY YOU AN' YER PACK. I HAD NO RIGHT MUSCLIN' IN AT THE LAST SECOND 'CAUSE A' MY PRIDE--
--THAT'S AS CLOSE TO AN APOLOGY AS I GO.

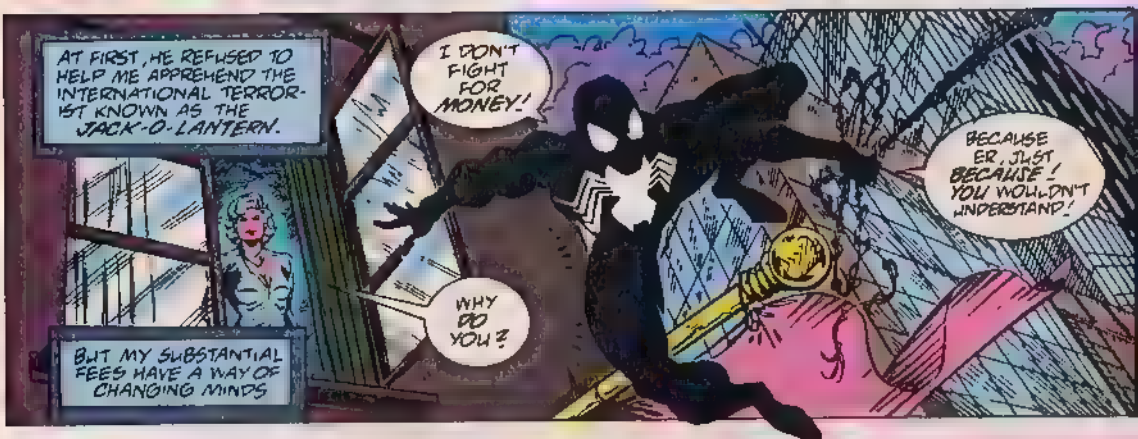
I'LL LET YOU MAKE IT UP TO US.
YOU AND YOUR CREW HELP US FEED SOME HUNGRY PEOPLE DOWN THERE, AND WE'LL CALL IT SQUARE.
THAT'S WHAT REALLY COUNTS HERE, AIN'T IT?

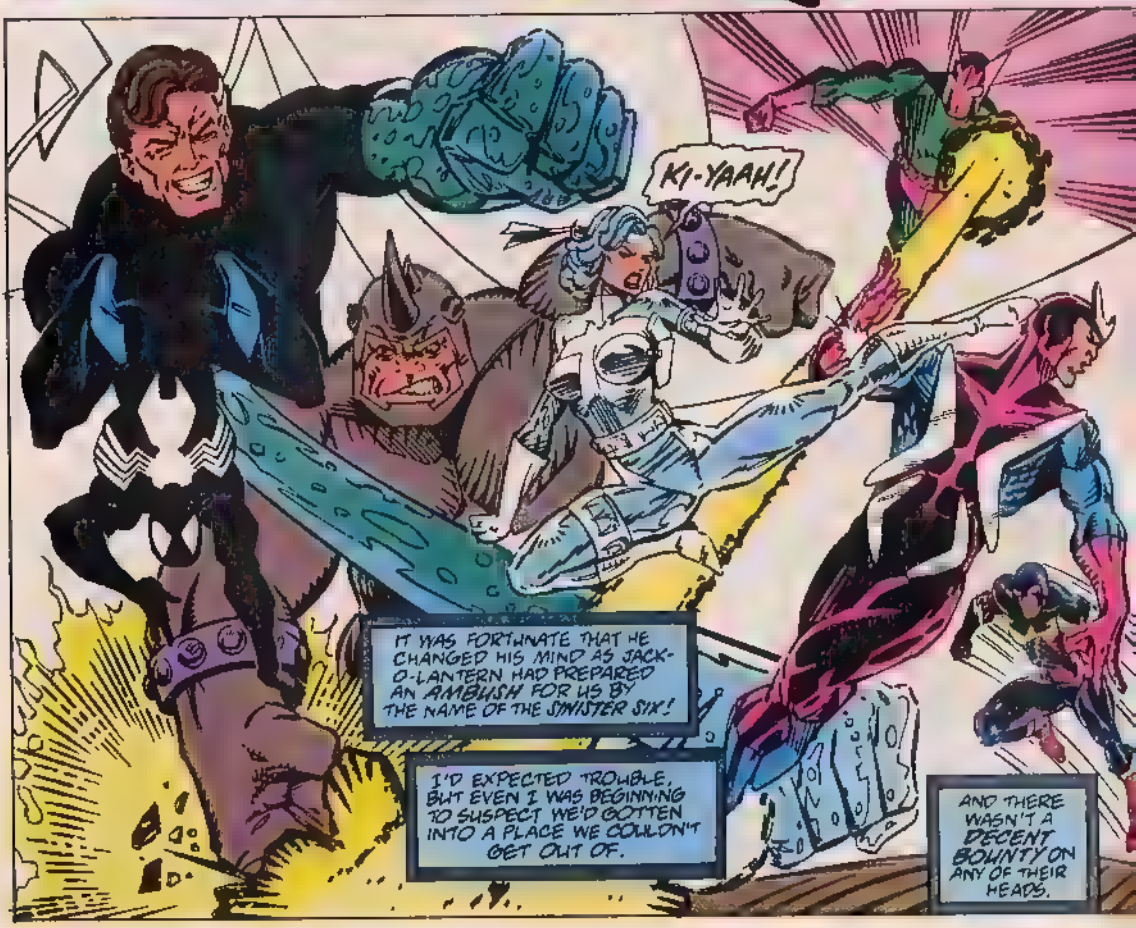

AND SOON...
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I LAST FELT THIS, SATISFIED. I'M ALWAYS LOOKIN' AT A DIFFERENT PICTURE--
SAME HERE. IT IS A SHAME OUR BUSINESS KEEPS US FIGHTING INSTEAD OF SAVING.
THE END
NEXT: VENOM!

SILVER SABLE
EARLY TALES
LOOKING BACK, I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHY I WAS INITIALLY OPPOSED TO HIRING SUPER-POWERED OPERATIVES.
PERHAPS IT HAD TO DO WITH PRIDE.
AS IT WAS, MY FIRST CONTACT WITH A TRADITIONAL SUPER HERO WAS MORE OF A CONFRONTATION THAN AN ALLIANCE.
AND THAT HERO WAS SPIDER-MAN, WHO HAS BEEN A FREQUENT OPERATIVE EVER SINCE.
BASED ON EVENTS IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #265, #280 AND #291.
CHAPTER SEVEN:
THE WEBSLINGER
GREGORY WRIGHT - writer
NELSON ORTEGA - penciler
MICKEY RITTER - inker
STEVE DUTRO - letterer
JOE ROSAS - colorist
CRAIG ANDERSON - editor
TOM DEFALCO - chief

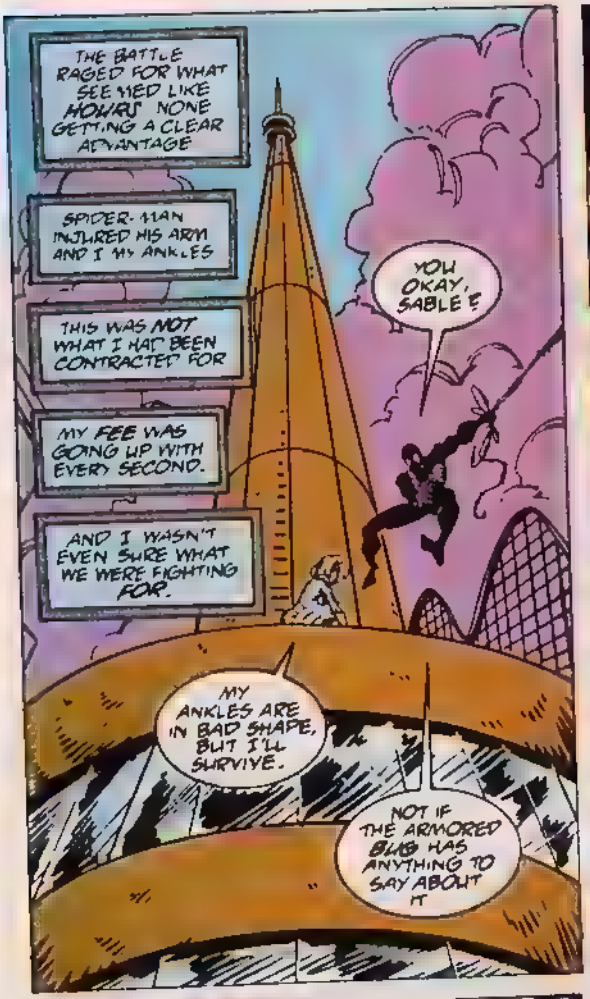
THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN!
SPIDER-MAN HAD ALLOWED THE INTERNATIONAL JEWEL THIEF KNOWN AS THE BLACK FOX TO ESCAPE FROM MY WILD PACK.
YOU'D THINK WATCHING A GUY TAKE OUT THREE GUYS IN TWO SECONDS WOULD GIVE THE REST A CLUE AS TO WHO'S TOP DOG--
WHUD
WHUD
CONGRATULATIONS, SPIDER-MAN. YOU'VE BROKEN QUITE A FEW LAWS TONIGHT--
THERE'S THE OL' POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK THING AGAIN--
THWIP
--AND COST MY COMPANY, SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL, A SIZEABLE FEE. I'M NOT VERY PLEASED WITH YOU.
THAT'S A COLD SHAME. YOU COULD TRY TO SUE ME, BUT THEN I WOULDN'T BE INCLINED TO LET YOU CLAIM THE REWARD FOR RECOVERING THE JEWELS I SLIPPED OFF THE FOX--
--BEFORE LETTING HIM GO--
I WAS MORE IRRITATED THAT HE RECOVERED THE JEWELS INSTEAD OF MY PACK THAN I WAS AT HIS ALLOWING THE BLACK FOX TO ESCAPE.
WHOEVER HE WAS, SPIDER-MAN WAS SOMEONE DEFINITELY WORTH LEARNING MORE ABOUT.
ESPECIALLY SINCE I FELT I MIGHT HAVE NEED OF HIM IN THE FUTURE...

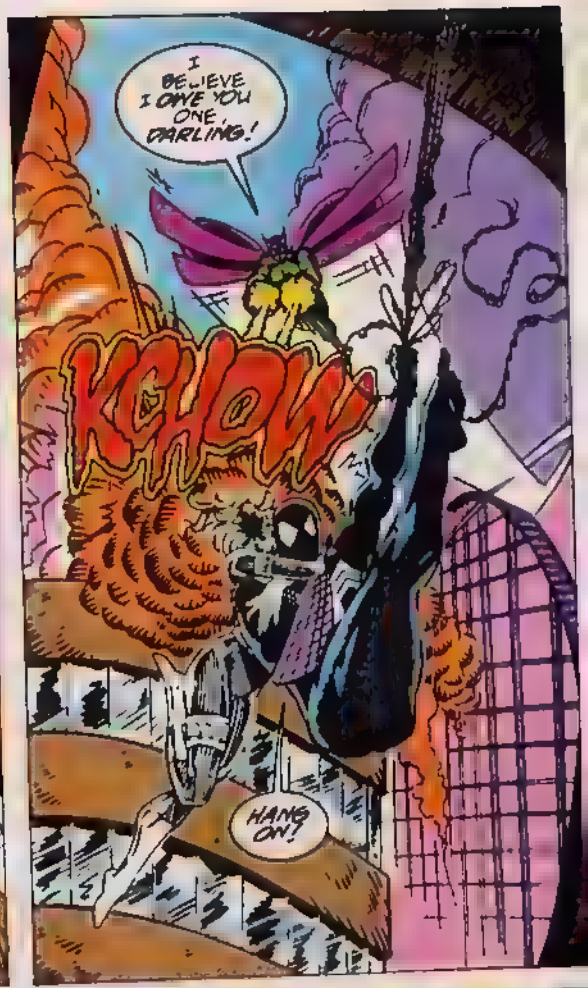

... A FUTURE WHICH CAME MUCH SWIFTER THAN I WOULD HAVE LIKED.
ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN: SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!
O-KAY... GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT WHY...


AT FIRST, HE REFUSED TO HELP ME APPREHEND THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST KNOWN AS THE JACK-O-LANTERN.
I DON'T FIGHT FOR MONEY!
BECAUSE ER, JUST BECAUSE! YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!
WHY DO YOU?
BUT MY SUBSTANTIAL FEES HAVE A WAY OF CHANGING MINDS


KI-YAAH!
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT HE CHANGED HIS MIND AS JACK-O-LANTERN HAD PREPARED AN AMBUSH FOR US BY THE NAME OF THE SINISTER SIX!
I'D EXPECTED TROUBLE, BUT EVEN I WAS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WE'D GOTTEN INTO A PLACE WE COULDN'T GET OUT OF.
AND THERE WASN'T A DECENT BOUNTY ON ANY OF THEIR HEADS.

BOOMERANG, NOW YOU AND I WILL TAKE THE GIRL!
EVEN WITH THE UNEVEN ODDS, THIS WOMAN IS MORE THAN YOUR MATCH.
THROOM
SURPRISE!
IF YOU SAY SO, BEETLE
BUT I'M AFRAID IT IS YOU WHO ARE IN FOR THE SURPRISE
WHA--? HOW'D YOU--
YEARS OF TRAINING. SOMETHING YOU ARE LACKING.
I CAN'T SEE!
EXACTLY. AND YOUR MOMENTUM WILL PROVIDE THE MEANS TO YOUR DEFEAT.
BLOOM


THE BATTLE RAGED FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS NONE GETTING A CLEAR ADVANTAGE
SPIDER-MAN INJURED HIS ARM AND I MY ANKLES
THIS WAS NOT WHAT I HAD BEEN CONTRACTED FOR
MY FEE WAS GOING UP WITH EVERY SECOND.
AND I WASN'T EVEN SURE WHAT WE WERE FIGHTING FOR.
YOU OKAY, SABLE?
MY ANKLES ARE IN BAD SHAPE, BUT I'LL SURVIVE.
NOT IF THE ARMORED BUG HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT


I BELIEVE I OWE YOU ONE, DARLING!
KCHOW
HANG ON!

WE'LL HIDE IN THE ROLLER COASTER UNTIL WE CAN PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE--
THE NEXT MOVE WAS NOT TO BE OURS.
WE'LL BRING THE WHOLE DARN THING DOWN ON 'EM!
BLAP
BRAM

THIS WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA.
UH OH!
IT WAS A MOMENT OF HELPLESSNESS
ONE OF THE MOST DREADED OF ALL EMOTIONS.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

MARVEL
THE MIGHTY
THOR
AN INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER
$1.25 US
$1.60 CAN
467
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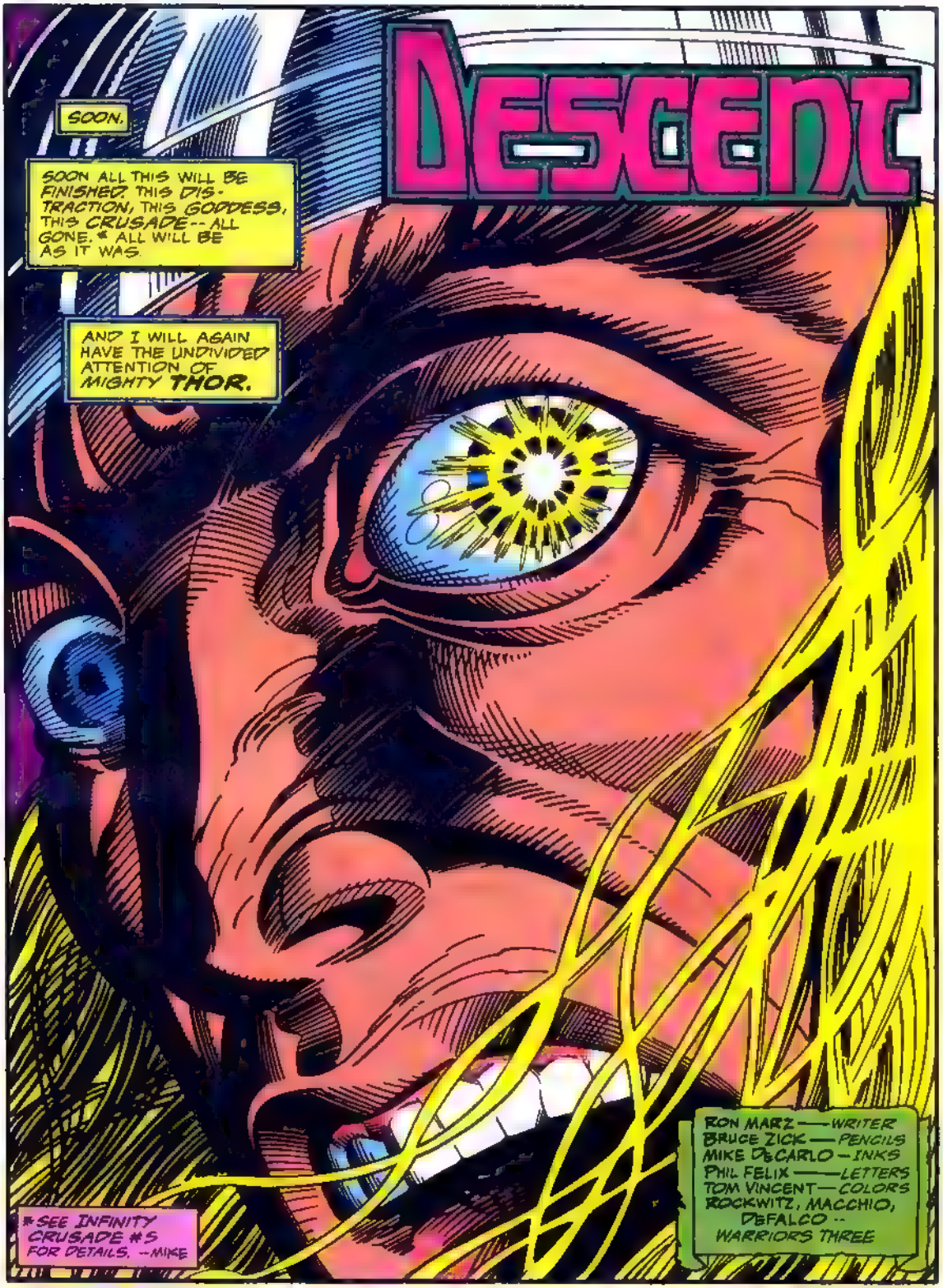
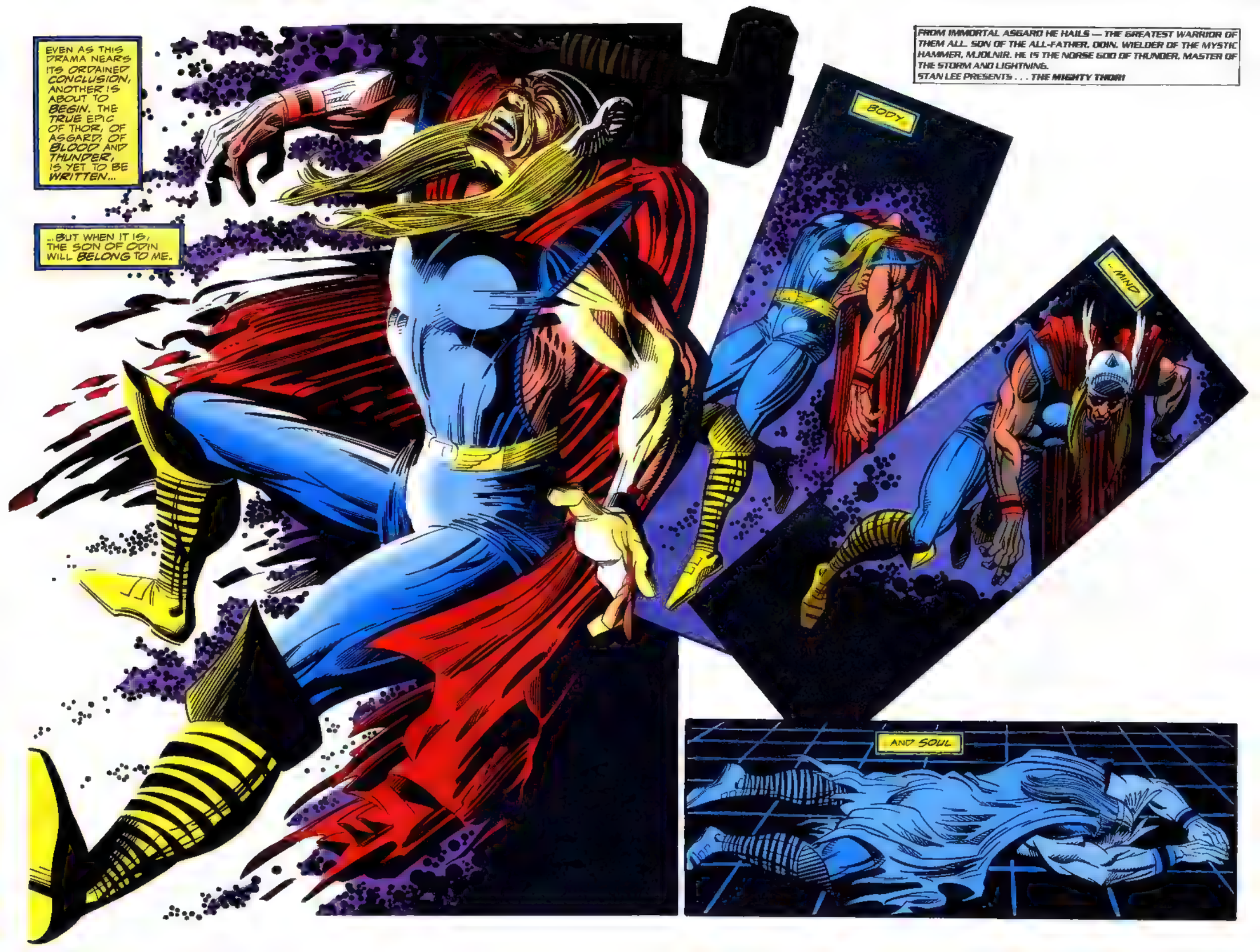
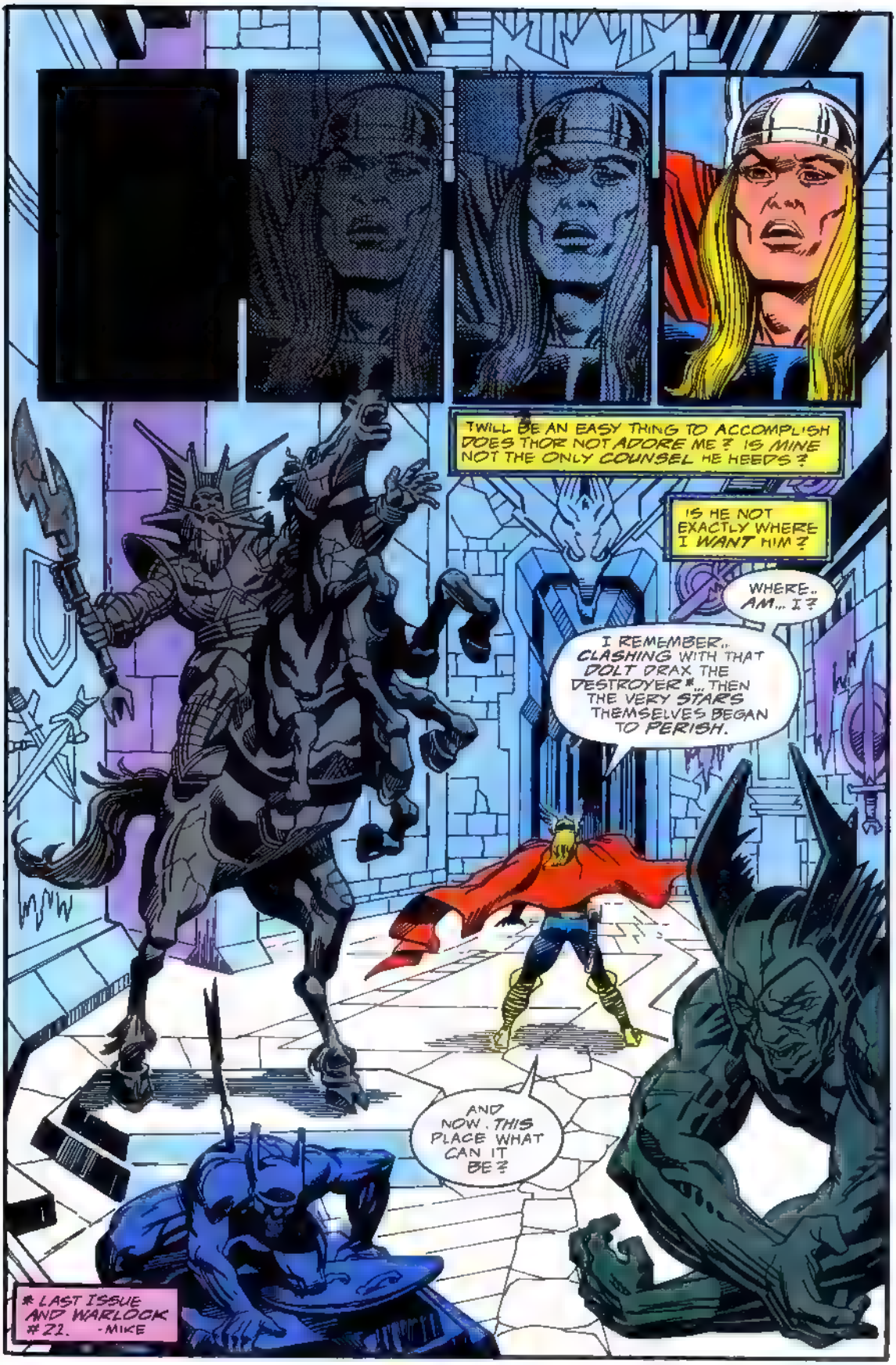
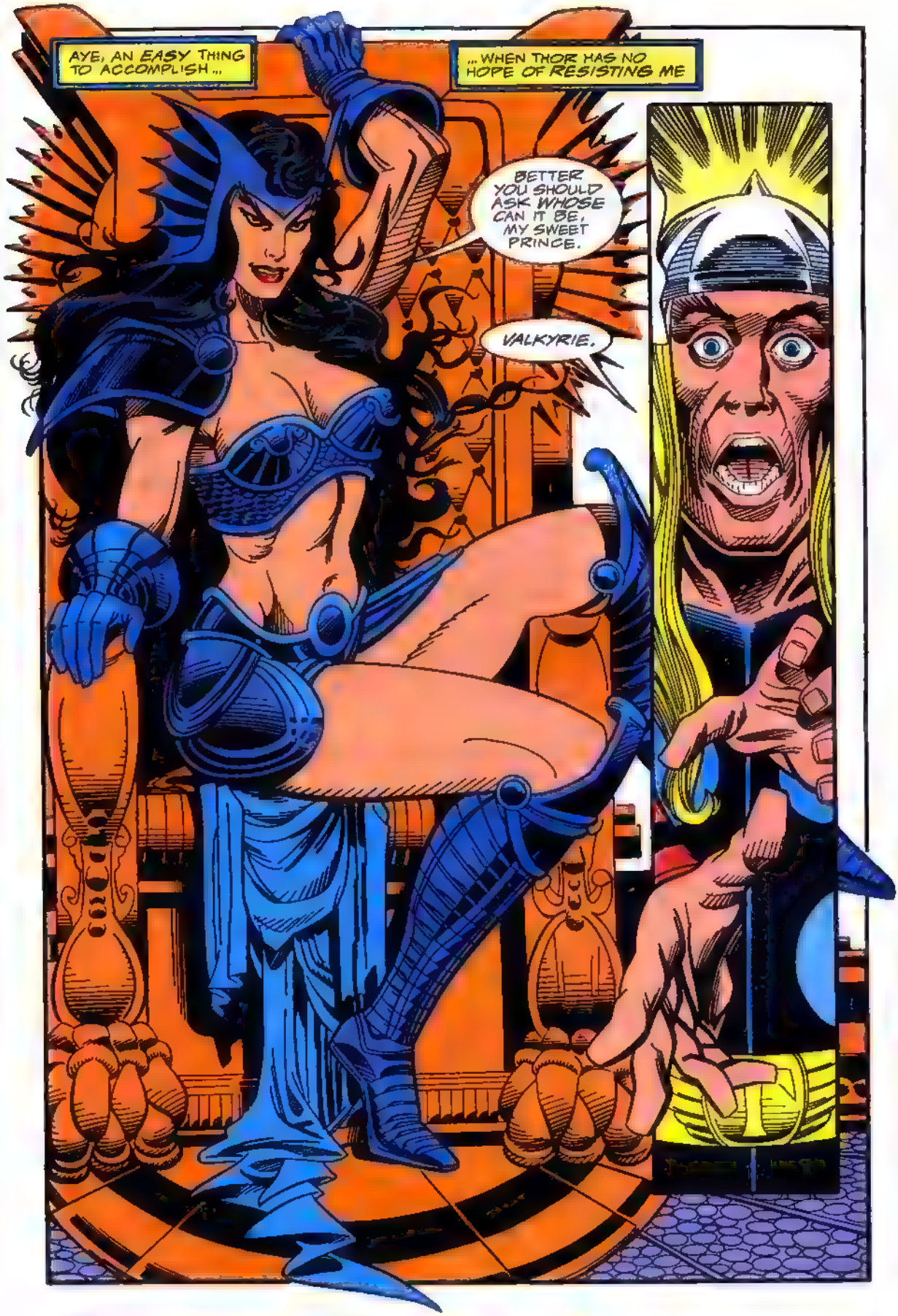
UK 95p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IT'S PLUTO VS. SIF--
FOR THE LIFE OF A THUNDER GOD!
ZICK DeGARLO
Scanned by Raven


DESCENT
SOON.
SOON ALL THIS WILL BE FINISHED. THIS DISTRACTION, THIS GODDESS, THIS CRUSADE -- ALL GONE. * ALL WILL BE AS IT WAS.
AND I WILL AGAIN HAVE THE UNDIVIDED ATTENTION OF MIGHTY THOR.
RON MARZ — WRITER
BRUCE ZICK — PENCILS
MIKE DeCARLO — INKS
PHIL FELIX — LETTERS
TOM VINCENT — COLORS
ROCKWITZ, MACCHIO, DeFALCO -- WARRIORS THREE
* SEE INFINITY CRUSADE #5 FOR DETAILS. --MIKE

THE MIGHTY THOR Vol. 1 No. 467 October 1993 ISSN #0274-533X Published by MARVEL COMICS Terry Stewart President Stan Lee Publisher Michael Hobson Group Vice President Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK N Y 10016 SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group Inc All rights reserved Price $1 25 per copy in the U S and $1 60 in Canada Subscription rate for 12 issues U S $15 00 foreign $27 00 and Canadian subscribers must add $8 00 for postage and GST GST #R127032852 No similarity between any of the names characters persons and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed nor in a mutilated condition THE MIGHTY THOR including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE MIGHTY THOR c o MARVEL COMICS 9TH FLOOR 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK N Y 10016 Printed in the U S A


FROM IMMORTAL ASGARD HE HAILS — THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THEM ALL. SON OF THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN. WIELDER OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER, MJOLNIR. HE IS THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER, MASTER OF THE STORM AND LIGHTNING.
STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE MIGHTY THOR!
EVEN AS THIS DRAMA NEARS ITS ORDAINED CONCLUSION, ANOTHER IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. THE TRUE EPIC OF THOR, OF ASGARD, OF BLOOD AND THUNDER, IS YET TO BE WRITTEN...
...BUT WHEN IT IS, THE SON OF ODIN WILL BELONG TO ME.
BODY
...MIND
AND SOUL

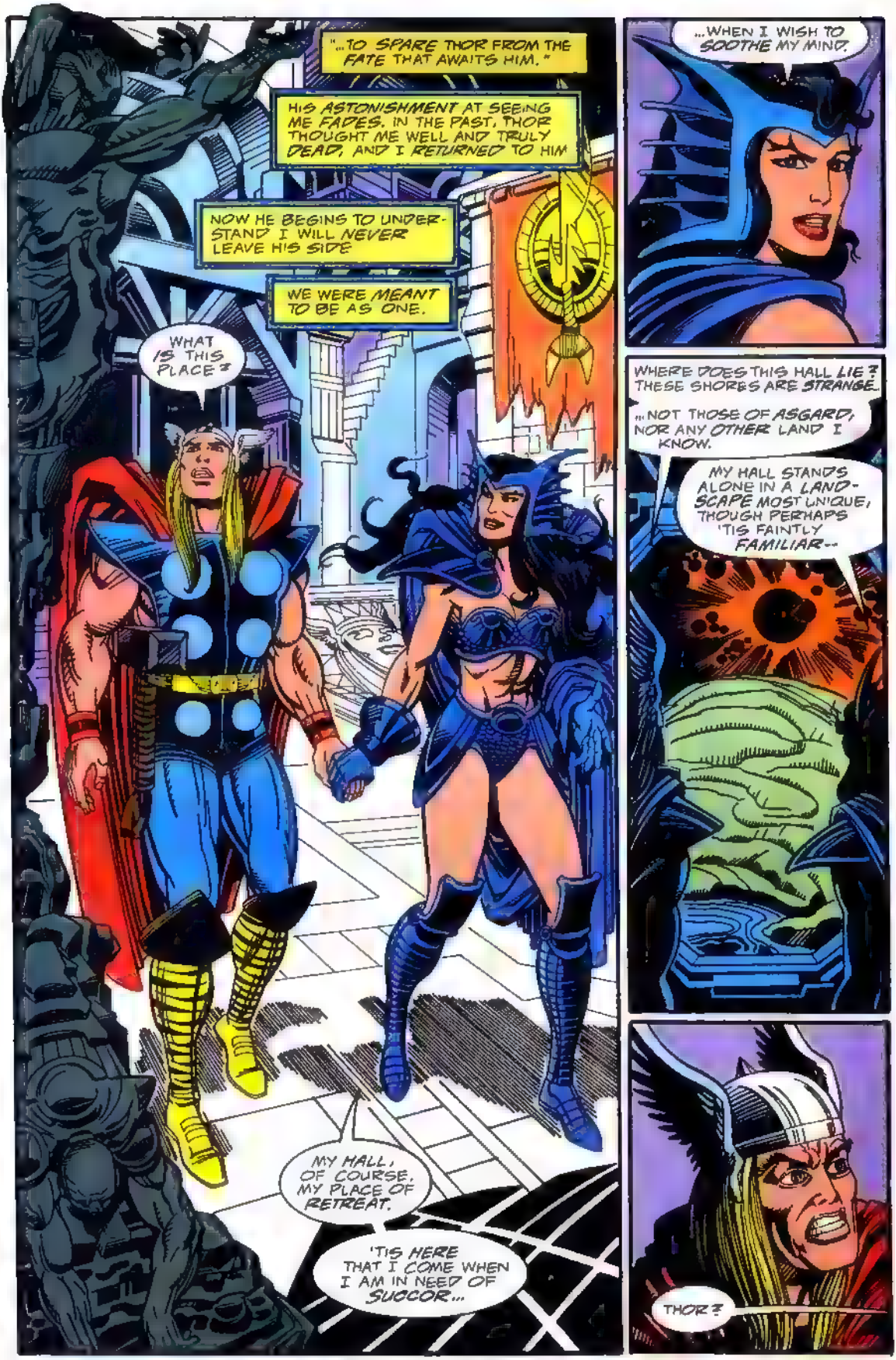

KIRBY
I WILL BE AN EASY THING TO ACCOMPLISH DOES THOR NOT ADORE ME? IS MINE NOT THE ONLY COUNSEL HE HEEDS?
IS HE NOT EXACTLY WHERE I WANT HIM?
WHERE.. AM... I?
I REMEMBER.. CLASHING WITH THAT DOLT DRAX THE DESTROYER*... THEN THE VERY STARS THEMSELVES BEGAN TO PERISH.
AND NOW. THIS PLACE WHAT CAN IT BE?
* LAST ISSUE AND WARLOCK #22. -MIKE


AYE, AN EASY THING TO ACCOMPLISH ...
... WHEN THOR HAS NO HOPE OF RESISTING ME
BETTER YOU SHOULD ASK WHOSE CAN IT BE, MY SWEET PRINCE.
VALKYRIE.

OLYMPUS.
ZEUS, HEAR ME. I HAVE NEED OF YOU.
LADY SIF, 'TIS CURIOUS YOU ARRIVE HERE NOW. I PREPARE TO JOURNEY TO YOUR HOME, GOLDEN ASGARD.
THE TASK I AM ABOUT IS NOT... PLEASANT.. FAIR LADY. IT CONCERNS HE WHO IS YOUR LOVE--
MY BROTHER, 'TIS OBVIOUS SHE IS HERE TO BEG MERCY FOR CRAVEN THOR.
ASGARD NOW SENDS MAIDENS ON ITS ERRANDS.
TELL HER, BROTHER, TELL HER WE OF OLYMPUS WILL HEAR NO PLEADING ON BEHALF OF ODIN'S WAYWARD SON

INDEED, 'TIS ABOUT THOR I AM COME. BUT NOT AT HIS REQUEST, NOR THAT OF ANY IN ASGARD.
I COME BECAUSE MY BELOVED THOR IS...
...IS MAD.
NONE OF ASGARD REALIZE THEIR PRINCE'S MALADY, EVEN ODIN, FOR ITS PUNISHMENT IS ETERNAL BANISHMENT FROM THE GOLDEN REALM.
I FEAR THERE IS LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO LET THOR'S ILLNESS BE KNOWN.
I INTEND TO VISIT ASGARD, AND SUE FOR THE THUNDERER'S SURRENDER, SO THAT HE MAY ANSWER FOR CRIMES AGAINST OLYMPUS.
CRIMES? HE HAS DONE SOMETHING?
AYE, ACTS MOST HEINOUS AND COWARDLY.
YOUR "BELOVED" FELL UPON ARES AND I, HIS ATTACK UNWARRANTED AND UNPROVOKED. WE GAVE THOR NO INSULT, AND BEGGED HIM TO DESIST FOR THE SAKE OF AMITY 'TWIXT OUR REALMS.
BUT OUR PETITIONS FELL UPON DEAF EARS. WE ESCAPED HIS INSANE RAGE ONLY BARELY.
POOR ARES STILL RECOVERS FROM HIS WOUNDS.
* THOR #461
BE ASSURED THOR WILL SORELY REGRET HIS BASE DEEDS.
SUCH CANNOT BE TRUE. THE MADNESS IS UPON THOR, FOR I MYSELF HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO IT.
YET 'TIS HIS MIND THAT AILS, NOT HIS COURAGEOUS HEART. THOR IS NO COWARD.
EVEN IN THIS FUGUE, THOR WOULD NOT STOOP TO AMBUSH YOU AS YOU SAY.
PLEASE, ZEUS, DELAY YOUR MISSION IF YOU WILL NOT DESIST FROM IT.
THOR IS YET TO RETURN TO ASGARD, AND THESE CHARGES THAT PLUTO BRINGS ARE PLAINLY UNTRUE.

BROTHER, YOU... YOU DON'T BELIEVE HER... DO YOU?
PERHAPS WE HAVE ACTED HASTILY, PLUTO. LADY SIF SEEMS SINCERE ENOUGH.
SINCERE? MY LORD, I HAVE ADVISED YOU MOST EARNESTLY IN THIS MATTER.
'TIS SHE YOU MUST DOUBT.
YOU LIE, WITCH, TO PROTECT THOR!
I CHALLENGE YOU-- PROVE YOUR WORDS WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF COMBAT!
I ACCEPT, PLUTO, FOR THE TRUTH WILL GRANT ME STRENGTH.
ANY TRIAL WILL I OVER-COME...


"...TO SPARE THOR FROM THE FATE THAT AWAITS HIM."
HIS ASTONISHMENT AT SEEING ME FADES. IN THE PAST, THOR THOUGHT ME WELL AND TRULY DEAD, AND I RETURNED TO HIM
NOW HE BEGINS TO UNDERSTAND I WILL NEVER LEAVE HIS SIDE
WE WERE MEANT TO BE AS ONE.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
MY HALL, OF COURSE. MY PLACE OF RETREAT.
'TIS HERE THAT I COME WHEN I AM IN NEED OF SUCCOR...
...WHEN I WISH TO SOOTHE MY MIND.
WHERE DOES THIS HALL LIE? THESE SHORES ARE STRANGE.
...NOT THOSE OF ASGARD, NOR ANY OTHER LAND I KNOW.
MY HALL STANDS ALONE IN A LANDSCAPE MOST UNIQUE, THOUGH PERHAPS 'TIS FAINTLY FAMILIAR--
THOR?

WHAT IS THAT?
THE ALL-FATHER?
YOU KNOW 'TIS THE DUTY OF THE VALKYRIES TO SERVE AS SHIELD MAIDENS TO ODIN. 'TIS SIMPLY AN OLD STATUE, HONORING HE WHO IS OUR PATRON.
'TIS THE ALL-FATHER, MY FATHER, WHO IS THE ROOT OF MY WOES, AND WHO DROVE ME FROM ASGARD.
'TWAS HE WHO REDUCED ME TO BITS AND PIECES.
HE WHO CLEAVED MY SOUL AND MARRIED THE FRAGMENTS TO MERE MORTALS.
HE WHO ALLOWED MY POWER TO BE USURPED BY A CREATURE OF ALIEN FORM.
'TIS AS YOU SHOWED ME, VALKYRIE. ODIN HAS EVER SOUGHT TO MAKE A SERVANT OF ME, USE ME AS HIS PUPPET.
'TIS WELL THAT I DID LEAVE ASGARD, ELSE THE GOLDEN REALM WOULD SURELY SUFFER FOR ITS ILL TREATMENT OF THE THUNDER GOD

WHY SHOULD IT NOT?

LET YOUR FATHER'S REALM BURN AS MONUMENT TO YOUR FREEDOM FROM HIS YOKE

WHAT BETTER WAY TO SERVE NOTICE OF YOUR INDEPENDENCE FROM ASGARD THAN TO TEAR DOWN ITS WALLS?

REWARD ASGARD AS IT DESERVES--WITH UTTER DESTRUCTION.

AYE.

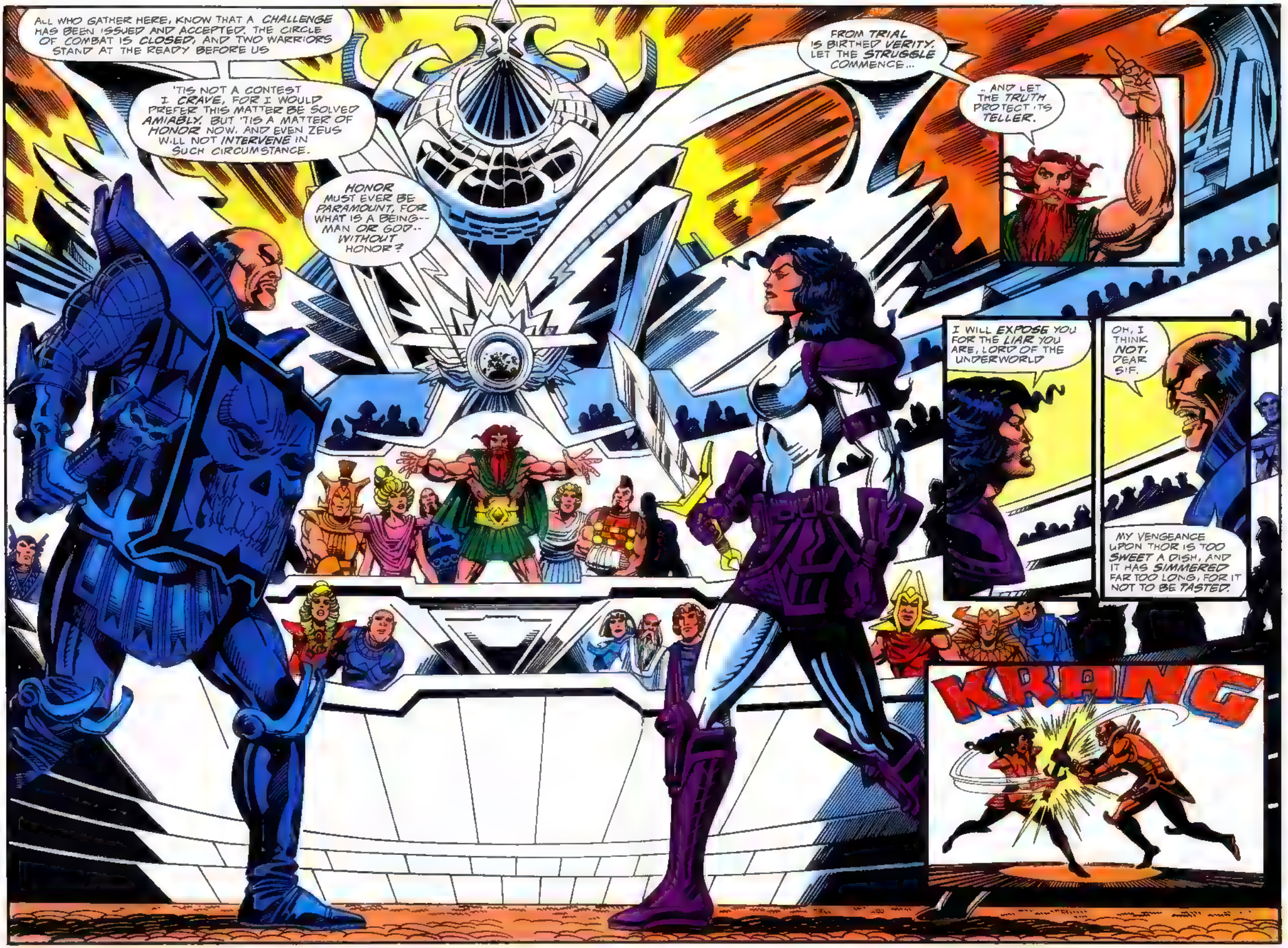
DESTRUCTION.

FOR ASGARD. FOR ODIN.

...DESTRUCTION!

KRAK!

KRA


ALL WHO GATHER HERE, KNOW THAT A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ISSUED AND ACCEPTED. THE CIRCLE OF COMBAT IS CLOSED, AND TWO WARRIORS STAND AT THE READY BEFORE US
'TIS NOT A CONTEST I CRAVE, FOR I WOULD PREFER THIS MATTER BE SOLVED AMIABLY. BUT 'TIS A MATTER OF HONOR NOW, AND EVEN ZEUS WILL NOT INTERVENE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCE.
HONOR MUST EVER BE PARAMOUNT, FOR WHAT IS A BEING-- MAN OR GOD-- WITHOUT HONOR?
FROM TRIAL IS BIRTHED VERITY. LET THE STRUGGLE COMMENCE...
.. AND LET THE TRUTH PROTECT ITS TELLER.
I WILL EXPOSE YOU FOR THE LIAR YOU ARE, LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD
OH, I THINK NOT, DEAR SIF.
MY VENGEANCE UPON THOR IS TOO SWEET A DISH, AND IT HAS SIMMERED FAR TOO LONG, FOR IT NOT TO BE TASTED.
KRANG

ALL THAT I HAVE ORCHESTRATED WILL NOT BE TORN ASUNDER BY THOR'S FAWNING WOMAN!
VRANG!
SK
RA
AK
I HAVE PLOTTED TOO PERFECTLY, SURMOUNTED ALL OBSTACLES IN MY PATH...
...EVEN ALLAYED THE DOUBTS THAT VEXED THE CONSCIENCE OF ARES.
CHANK
...AND I WILL NOT BE STOPPED!
SHANG!
HNNF!

AHH!
KA-CHANG!
IT SEEMS YOU ARE UNARMED, LADY. I SUPPOSE THE GALLANT THING TO DO IS LET YOU RE-CLAIM YOUR WEAPON.
I, HOWEVER, HAVE NEVER BEEN GALLANT.
YOU KNOW WHAT I WILL DO TO YOU.
I'LL NOT BEG MERCY FROM YOU, PLUTO.
NOT WHEN THE INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR DEFEAT ARE IN MY GRASP.
STONES?
YOU INTEND TO BEST ME WITH STONES?
ENJOY YOUR MIRTH...
~BUT THESE BAUBLES WILL PROVE YOUR DOWN-FALL.
AYE, FLEE, WOMAN!
IT AVAILS YOU NAUGHT, FOR PLUTO IS TRIUMPHANT!

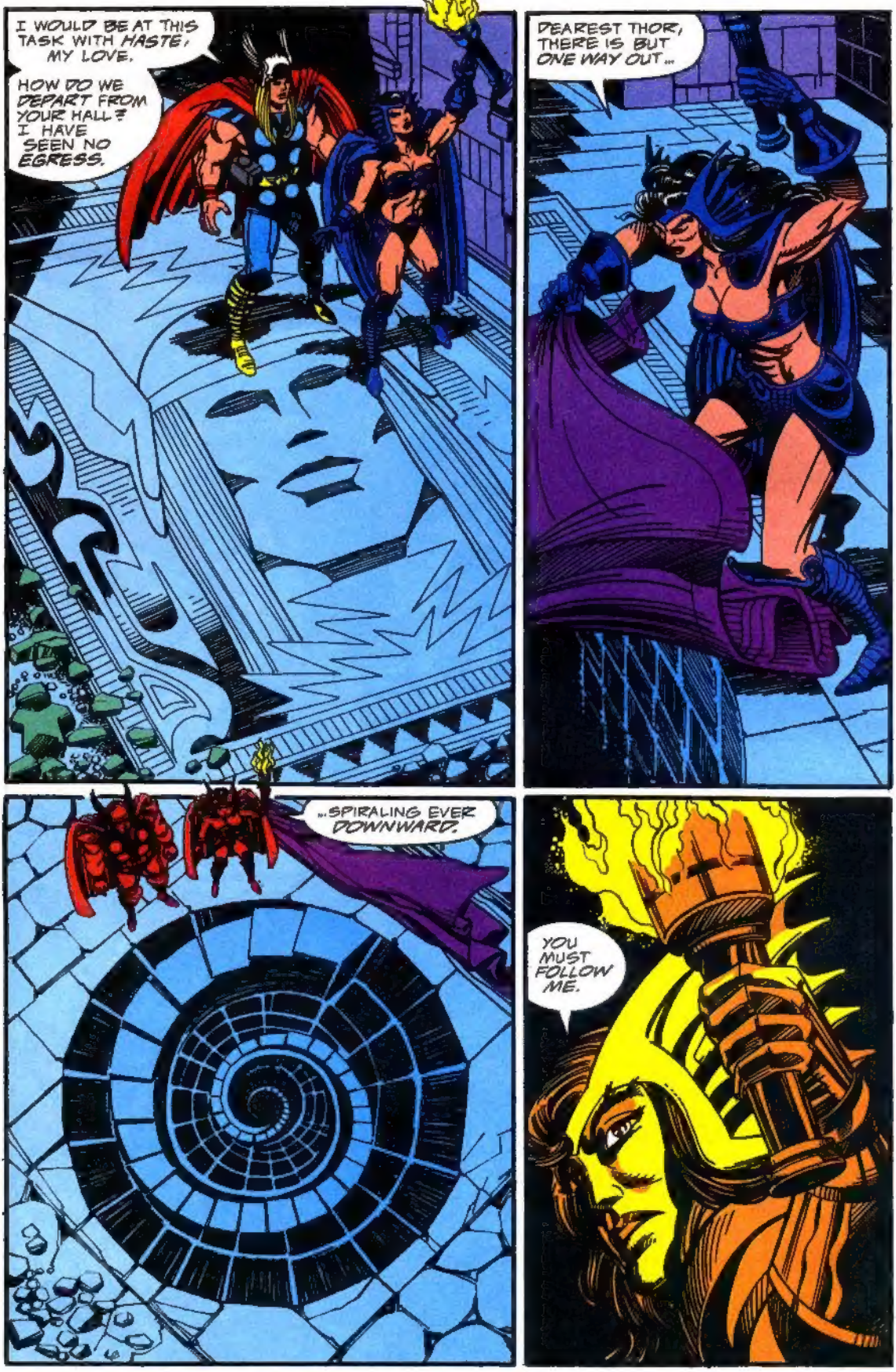
THE ASGARDIAN HAS FLED FROM THE STRENGTH OF PLUTO'S ARGUMENTS. DOES YOUR UNCLE'S TRIUMPH GLADDEN YOU, ARES?
ARES?
WHERE ARE WE, LADY SIF? WHAT RUSE IS THIS YOU ATTEMPT?
'TIS A RUSE I HOPE TO EXPOSE BY SPIRITING YOU TO THESE CELLARS BENEATH THE COLISEJM.
I APPEAL TO YOU, ARES, AS A FINAL HOPE OF DELIVERANCE FOR MY BELOVED THOR. I KNOW PLUTO ENGAGES IN FALSEHOOD, AND YOU--
AM I TO DIVULGE HIS LIES IN ORDER TO SEE THOR SPARED? DO I SEEM TO YOU MAD?
LET THOR SUFFER AS I HAVE
LONG HAVE I CRAVED VENGEANCE AGAINST HIM, AND I WILL SEE IT COME TO FRUITION.
EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THAT WHICH YOU HOLD MOST DEAR, WAR GOD? EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR HONOR?
DID YOU NOT HEAR YOUR FATHER'S WORDS?
AYE, SIF I HEARD THEM WELL ENOUGH... AND YOUR ENTREATIES RING TRUE.
THOUGH I HUNGER FOR THOR'S DOWNFALL, 'TIS INDEED UNSEEMLY TO CONSPIRE THUSLY. MY WARRIOR'S PRIDE IS CUT TO THE QUICK BY IT.
BUT TO BETRAY MY KINSMAN...
I ASK YOU AGAIN, ARES..
...WILL YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH?

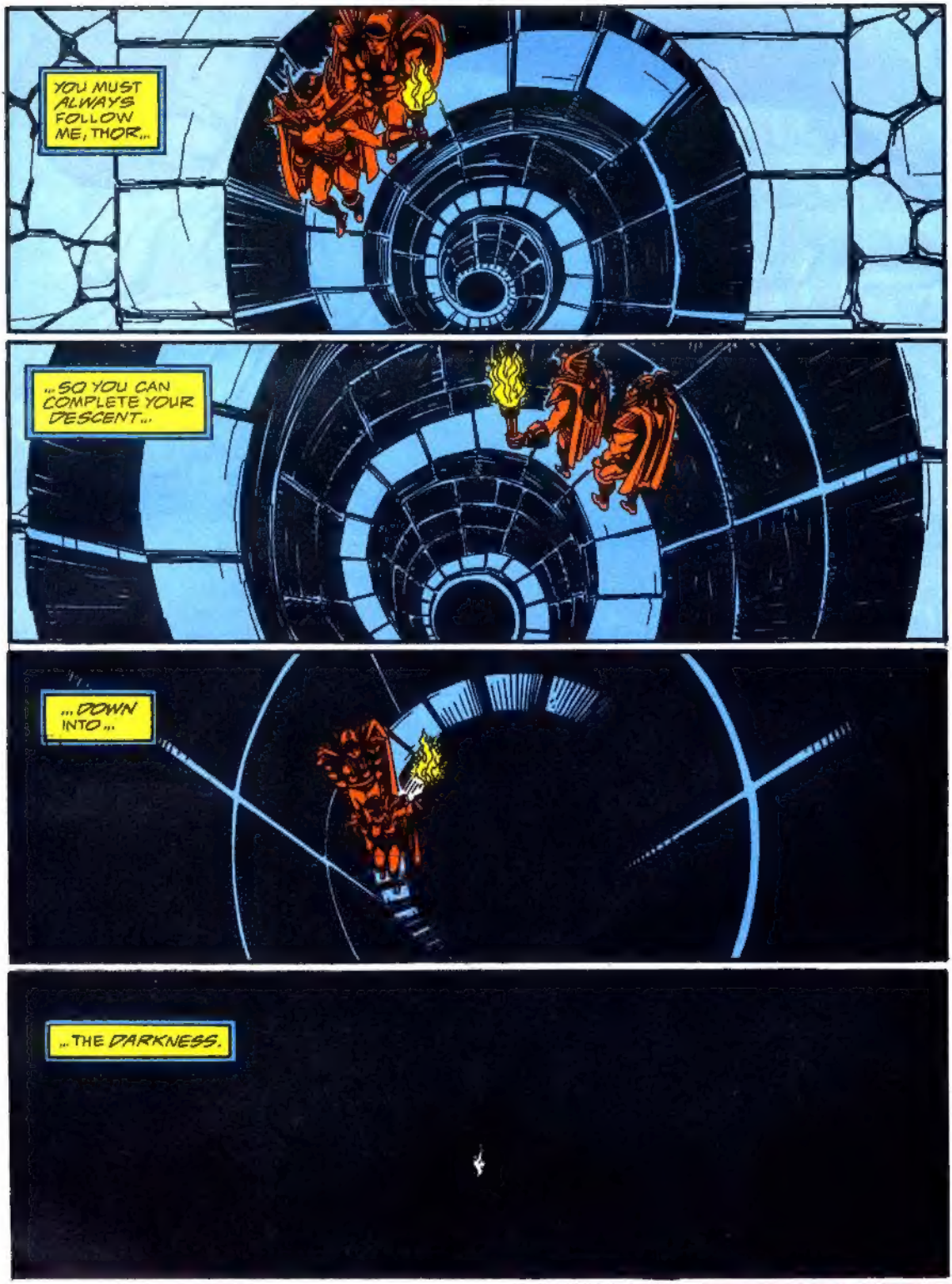
YOU SEE? ALL IS AS I SAID. I AM BORNE OUT!
THE ASGARDIAN TROLLOP TAKES FLIGHT, AS CRAVEN AS THE CUR SHE ATTEMPTS TO SAVE FROM DESERVING PUNISH.
I GAMBLE ON YOUR INTEGRITY, ARES. PLUTO POSSESSES TOO MUCH MIGHT TO STAND AGAINST IN COMBAT, BUT BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, YOUR CONSCIENCE PAINED YOU.
ON YOUR WARRIOR'S HONOR, FOR MY LIFE AND THE LIFE OF THOR, ARE PLUTO'S WORDS TRUE?
NAY.
HE LIES.
MY UNCLE LIES!
NAY.
THOR IS TRULY MAD. BUT 'TWAS WE WHO LAY IN WAIT FOR HIM, WE WHO ENGAGED IN ARTIFICE AND FELL UPON HIM.
I RESPECT THE THUNDERER AS A NOBLE WARRIOR, BUT HE HAS LONG BEEN MY ADVERSARY. MY YEARNING FOR REVENGE SPURRED ME TO DECEIT.
NOW I SEE I WAS BUT A PAWN TO PLUTO, AND I AM SHAMED FOR IT.
ARES YOU... YOU ARE MISTAKEN, OF COURSE. THE INJURIES HAVE CLOUDED YOUR MEMORY--
I SWEAR 'TIS TRUE. ON MY HONOR.

YOU TREACHEROUS FOOL! YOU UNDO ALL I HAVE SET IN MOTION!
I'LL HAVE YOUR LIFE FOR THIS!
HOLD! HOW DARE YOU ENGAGE IN SUCH PERFIDY! EVER HAVE YOU BEEN THE SCORN OF OLYMPUS, BUT THIS DEED IS UNPARDONABLE!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT DISGRACE UPON US, AND NEARLY CAUSED A YAWNING RIFT 'TWIXT OUR REALM AND ASGARD.
HEED ME, BROTHER. THIS YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE.
IS IT FEAR YOU WANT FROM ME, ZEUS? OR REPENTANCE?
YOU SHALL HAVE NEITHER. WHEN NEXT I --
NEXT? THERE IS NO NEXT FOR YOU, PLUTO.
BY MY DECREE AS HIGHEST AMONG THE CHILDREN OF CRONOS, YOU ARE AGAIN BANISHED TO YOUR FEARFUL REALM, FOR HADES NEEDS A REGENT AND I WOULD PUNISH NO OTHER WITH THAT TASK!
BUT HENCEFORTH, BROTHER, SHOULD YOU AGAIN LEAVE HADES...
...I WILL KILL YOU.
KRA-KOOM

ARES, TO CONFESS YOUR GUILT IS COMMENDABLE, BUT IT DOES NOT EXCUSE YOU FROM MY WRATH.
I WILL SETTLE WITH YOU, MY SON, AND YOU WILL FIND IT MOST UNPLEASANT.
AYE, FATHER.
AND TO YOU, LADY SIF, I OFFER THE SINCERE APOLOGIES OF ZEUS AND ALL OLYMPUS. WE WILL STRIVE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY BROTHER'S MACHINATIONS.
HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS THE DILEMMA OF THOR'S MADNESS. YOU WISH OUR AID, AND YET YOU WOULD HAVE ME KEEP ODIN IGNORANT OF HIS SON'S STATE.
THOR HAS BEEN A FRIEND TO OLYMPUS, YET NOW HE IS A DANGER TO THIS REALM AND ALL OTHERS.
THE INTERESTS OF OLYMPUS TAKE PRECEDENCE. I WILL NOT ALLOW MY PEOPLE TO BE ENDANGERED.
THOUGH IT GOES AGAINST YOUR WISHES, I MUST REVEAL TO ODIN WHAT I KNOW. I AM SORRY.
AFTER I HAVE DONE SO, THE RESOURCES OF OLYMPUS ARE YOURS.
LORD ZEUS, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS. BUT THOR FACES EXILE FROM ASGARD, FROM EVERYTHING HE HOLDS DEAR.
IF OLYMPUS CAN BE OF NO HELP NOW, SO BE IT. BUT I BEG YOU, GRANT ME A FEW SCANT DAYS BEFORE YOU INFORM ODIN.
GIVE ME TIME TO FIND A CURE FOR THOR, LEST HE BE LOST TO ME FOREVER.
AH, LOVELY SIF, 'TIS AGAINST MY GOOD JUDGMENT... BUT I AM IN YOUR DEBT FOR UNMASKING PLUTO.
THREE DAYS, NO MORE. THEN I GO TO ODIN AND RESOLVE THIS MATTER.
I AM INDEBTED, LORD...
...AND I WILL NOT FAIL YOU...

"...OR MY BELOVED THOR."
'TIS NOT ENOUGH.
YOU HAVE HELPED ME SEE IT CLEAR NOW, VALKYRIE. 'TIS NOT ENOUGH TO BE FREE OF ASGARD...
...I MUST BE AVENGED UPON IT.
I WILL RETURN TO THAT LOATHSOME LAND, AND LEAVE NOTHING IN MY WAKE. I WILL CALL DOWN LIGHTNING TO RAZE ITS CITIES AND BLACKEN THE LAND. CRIES OF AGONY WILL BE DROWNED OUT BY PEALING THUNDER.
MJOLNIR WILL STRIKE AS NEVER BEFORE.
AND WHEN I AM DONE, AND ALL IS LAID WASTE...
...I WILL SEEK OUT MY INSIDIOUS FATHER...
...AND CRUSH THE LIFE FROM HIM.


I WOULD BE AT THIS TASK WITH HASTE, MY LOVE.
HOW DO WE DEPART FROM YOUR HALL? I HAVE SEEN NO EGRESS.
DEAREST THOR, THERE IS BUT ONE WAY OUT...
...SPIRALING EVER DOWNWARD.
YOU MUST FOLLOW ME.



NEXT **BLOOD AND THUNDER**